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LE STRANGE RECORDS

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A CHRONICLE
OF THE EARLY LE STRANGES
OF NORFOLK AND THE MARCH OF WALES
A.D. 1100-1310

WITH THE LINES OF KNOCKIN AND BLACKMERE
CONTINUED TO THEIR EXTINCTION

Undique Reperta

BY
HAMON LE STRANGE, M.A., F.S.A.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.

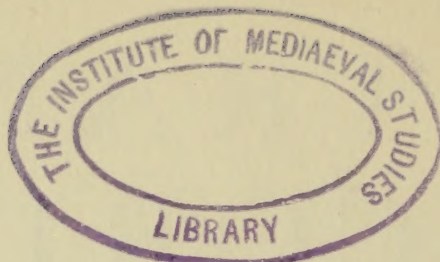
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PREFACE

THE present volume is an attempt to write the early history of the family from records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries which have come down to us ; it is composed on the principle of printing original documents in full, and in the tongue, Latin, Norman-French, or English, in which they were written. All dates have been reduced to the New Style, with the year commencing on January 1, and place names have been generally modernized.

In addition to the Rolls and Charters at the Public Record Office and the British Museum, which have been searched, considerable use has been made of the family Muniments preserved at Hunstanton Hall. They are kept in a small vaulted chamber, originally the guard-room of the Gate-House, built in the reign of Henry VII. It contains a large number of early Rolls and Charters, many of which documents were not noticed in the meagre description of this collection, given in the Third Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (pp. 271-274), by the late Mr. Alfred Horwood, who was only able to devote two days to the examination thereof. They were arranged, and a full Repertory of them was made by the late Mr. Henry Harrod, F.S.A., in 1869. The series of manorial Rolls relating to the Norfolk estates of the family is extraordinarily ample, running from the reign of Henry III onwards, though of course there are many gaps in the series.

During the two centuries dealt with these early Le Stranges took an active part in the public events of their day, and in order

to make their actions intelligible it has been necessary to weave into the story a certain amount of English history. For the correction of the historical portions of the narrative in the light of modern research, I am greatly indebted to Professor T. F. Tout, of the Victoria University of Manchester, who has given me much help, particularly with regard to the March of Wales, which he has made an especial object of study. Reference is given to the original authorities for all genealogical statements, and nothing not susceptible of strict proof has been admitted, so as, if possible, to avoid the intermixture of fact and fable usually found in family histories.

H. LE S.

HUNSTANTON HALL,
April 4, 1916.
L.S.D.

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ABBREVIATIONS OF REFERENCES

I.	All numbers enclosed in a small square refer to Press-marks in the Hunstanton Muniment Room.
BLOMEFIELD.	History of Norfolk by Francis Blomefield and Charles Parkin ; 8vo edition in 11 vols. (1805-10).
B.M.	British Museum.
C.A.D.	Calendar of Ancient Deeds in Public Record Office.
C.CH.R.	„ Charter Rolls.
C.CL.R.	„ Close Rolls.
C.Doc. SCOT.	„ Documents relating to Scotland.
C.F.R.	„ Fine Rolls.
C.I.P.M.	„ Inquisitions post mortem.
C.PAP.L.	„ Papal Letters.
C.P.R.	„ Patent Rolls.
CARTHEW.	‘The Hundred of Launditch and Deanery of Brisley in the County of Norfolk,’ by G. A. Carthew ; 3 vols. 4to (1877-9).
DUGD. BARON.	‘The Baronage of England,’ by Sir William Dugdale ; 3 vols. in 2, fo. (1675-6).
DUGD. MONAST.	‘Monasticon Anglicanum,’ by Sir William Dugdale ; 6 vols. New edition by J. Caley, H. Ellis, and B. Bandinel (1817-30).
DUGD. WARW.	‘The Antiquities of Warwickshire,’ by Sir William Dugdale ; fo. (1656).
EYTON.	‘Antiquities of Shropshire,’ by the Rev. R. W. Eyton ; 12 vols. 8vo (1854-1860). Itinerary of Henry II., 8vo (1878).
FÆDERA.	Rymer’s ‘Fœdera,’ fo. 4 vols. (1816-1830).
LIBER NIGER.	‘Liber niger Scaccarii,’ edited by W. Hearn ; 2 vols. 8vo (1771-1774).

MORRIS'S WELSH WARS.	'The Welsh Wars of Edward I,' by John E. Morris (1901).
PIPE ROLLS.	Publications of the Pipe Roll Society.
P.R.O.	Public Record Office.
REGESTA.	'Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, 1066-1100,' by H. W. C. Davis (1913).
ROT. CUR. REG.	'Rotuli Curiae Regis, 6 Ric. I-1 John'; edited by Sir F. Palgrave (1835).
ROT. HUNDR.	'Rotuli Hundredorum, Henr. III. and Edw. I'; fo., 2 vols., 1812.
ROT. ORIG.	'Rotuli Originalium, Abbreviatio; Hen. III-Edw. III'; fo., 2 vols. (1805-1810).
ROT. CLAUS. } ROT. PAT. }	Up to 1232 the Patent Rolls, and up to 1242 the Close Rolls of Hen. III were printed in full by the Commissioners of Public Records. After those dates the references are to the Calendars thereof in course of publication in the Rolls series.
ROUND, C.D.F.	Calendar of documents preserved in France illustrative of the History of Great Britain and Ireland, 918-1206, Record Office Publications (1899).
ROUND, P.F.H.	'Studies in Peerage and Family History,' by J. Horace Round (1901).
TESTA DE NEVILL.	'Testa de Nevill,' or 'Liber Feodorum,' printed by the Record Commission, fo. (1807).

PEDIGREE No. I

Herluin = * * *

Ralph fitz Herluin, *alias* Ralph de Hunstanton; = Helewisa de Plaiz, received the manor of Barnham as a gift in frank marriage from her father.

Hugh de Plaiz, of Barnham (Suffolk) = * * *

Ralph de Plaiz, = * * *
between 1107 and
1120 granted lands
to Thetford Priory.

3.

Rhiwallon, or Roland, le Strange, occurs as = Matilda le Brun, eventually heir-ess to her father.

2.

Reginald le Brun,
ob.s.p., before
1174.

1.

Simon fitz Ralph,
temp. Henry I;
ob.s.p.

2.

Hamon le Strange, of Cheswardine, before 1155; till Michs. 1159. At Michs. 1160 he was dead, *s.p.*, and was succeeded by his brother John.

1.

John le Strange (I), = Hawise * * *
of Ness, Cheswar-
dine and Hun-
stanton.

3.

Guy le Strange, of Weston and Alveley. Sheriff of Shropshire, 1160-1179, *ob.* 1179.

= Mary

Ralph le Strange, = * * *
of Little Ercall;
ob. before June,
1194.

4.

LE STRANGE RECORDS

1100-1310

CHAPTER I

ROLAND LE STRANGE

Circa 1112

THE origin, so called, of any old family is usually founded on fable, and that generally attributed to the house of Strange or le Strange is no exception to the rule. Most of the printed genealogies follow Dugdale in saying that the family sprang from a mythical Duke of Brittany, whose younger son, Guy, settled in England. The name itself evidently points to a foreign origin; the Normans themselves were foreigners in England, and the first 'Extraneus' was a foreigner among the Normans, both among those of Normandy as well as those of England. In the eleventh century hereditary surnames were just beginning to exist; men were usually called, either by the name of the place in which they lived, or from their occupation; very often they were simply described as the son of So-and-so, or else from some personal peculiarity; *i.e.* they were either 'de' somewhere, or 'le' something, and, in each event, the father's appellation might or might not be suitable to or be adopted by the son.

The account given by Dugdale is as follows:

It is said that, at a Justs held in the Peke of Derbyshire at Castle Peverell (of which I have already taken notice in my discourse on the family of Fitz Warine), where, amongst divers other persons of note, Oweyn Prince of Wales, and a son of

the King of Scots, were present, there were also two sons of the Duke of Bretagne; and that the younger of them, named Guy, was called Guy le Strange, from whom the several families of the le Stranges did descend.¹

The wide acceptance of this legendary history of the family is due to Dugdale, whose authority was Leland's 'Collectanea,' published in 1612, while Leland's account is derived from an English version of the French romance of Fulk fitz Warin.² The story quoted by Leland is to the effect that John, Duke of Brittany, had ten sons, whom he sent to a tournament, proclaimed at the Castle of the Peak by William Peverel of Whittington, whose niece and heiress, Melette, together with the lands of Whittington, was to be the prize of the victor; that the lady was won and duly espoused by Guarin de Metz, and after the espousals that the nine elder sons of the Duke of Brittany returned home, while the youngest remained in England and acquired many fair lands by his sword, and was called 'Gwy le Estraunge e de ly vindrent tous les grantz seignurs de Engleterre qe ont le sournom de Estraunge.'

The details of this story stamp it as a romance—for instance, there were no 'dukes,' but 'counts' of Brittany in the twelfth century, and none of them was called John, nor had ten sons. The legend, however, thus started into existence in the thirteenth century, obtained full currency and belief until the middle of the nineteenth. It was successively adopted by Leland, Glover, Dugdale, Blomefield, and the modern peerages; it was incorporated as gospel into the illuminated family pedigree, now in the Evidence Room at Hunstanton Hall, which was begun by Roger l'Estrange of Hoe in 1686, and has been continued to the present time. The bubble was not pricked until the publication of the 'Antiquities of Shropshire' in 1854-1860, by the Rev. R. W. Eyton, to whom is entirely due the credit of not only disproving the fabulous tale of the Trouvère, but of placing the early history of the family on a sure foundation of fact, as the result of his unwearied and extensive researches at the Record Office and among many original sources of information, topographical, genealogical,

¹ Dugdale's *Baronage*, i. 663.

² Leland's *Coll.* i. 261.

Sacno pfectos et fieri quod ego Johannes exoneus queneus. Dñs de Andorin. concessi et hac pñcia capere mea
congruam. Collato filio collato de wychebelle pro homagio et dñcio suo omnes pñs et tenementa
que de me tenent in humstanesur. silice. wychebelle. aquas et cetera cum pertinentiis cum exheredatio in eodem
et a pñcio in eodem villa. quas collandus exoneus concessit. meis quondam de deo. Geruo de Wychebelle
antecessori ipsius collato in libere ordinatione cum collato cognata sua cum collato de collato de
est. concessi et hac capere mea congruam. eodem collato totam pasturam in campis de humstanesur
a collato exoneus usus auctori. toto tempore anni apertis collato pñcia in illa parte campis ita quod
collatus nullam pasturam habere a pñcia via de collato exoneus usus aquilone scilicet formam eodem
uome didu fca me Anm collato exoneus pñcia meum et collato pñcia ipsius collato. habenda et uome
da omnia tenementa pñcia et pasturam pñcia collato pñcia cum omnes pñcia illi et heredibus suis
et assignatis de me et heredibus meis libere. quiete. et pñcia. habendo inde annuatim michi et
heredibus meis quinqz solidos argenti. silice. ad festum sancti andree. x. denarij. et ad pascha. x. denarij. et
ad festum sancti iohannis in estate. x. denarij. et ad festum sancti michaelis. x. denarij. pro omni suis consuetudinibus
ne et exactione. et ego Johannes et heredes mei collato exoneus pñcia collato et heredibus suis et assignatis
etiam et pasturam collato pñcia et omnes pñcia pñcia. in cuius possessionem hinc scriptum est. illi meum et pñcia.
dñcio come omnes homines in pñcia. Dñs Bogto de Andorin. Dñs Bogto de Andorin. Dñs Bogto de Andorin.
pñcia pñcia. Dñs Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin.
neherne. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin.
pñcia pñcia Bogto. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin. Bogto de Andorin.

and historical. Without his invaluable assistance the present record could not have been compiled with any approach to accuracy, and the compiler desires to acknowledge to the fullest degree his indebtedness to Eyton's labours, which justify, and indeed necessitate, the ample quotations from his volumes which appear below.

First, as to the story of the tournament and Guy le Strange, son of John, Duke of Brittany, Eyton shows¹ that William Peverel of Whittington was succeeded, not by his nieces, but by his sisters, and that none of them was ever wife of Guarin de Metz ; that no such person as 'Johan duc de la Petite-Bretagne' is known to any record of that period ; that the tournament, if attended by the persons mentioned, must have taken place between 1137 (when Owen Gwynedd succeeded to the sceptre of North Wales) and 1147 (when the last William Peverel of Whittington died) ; while 'the advent of Guy le Strange, as yet unmarried, at such a period is irreconcilable with the fact that the three brothers' [John, Hamon, and Guy] 'whom this narrative would make his sons, were all enfeoffed by Henry II at a time when, according to the same narrative, the eldest of them could not have been of age.'

Eyton has therefore looked to other sources for some probable theory as to the origin and rise of the house of le Strange, and he expresses his satisfaction that his researches have met with a success seldom attainable in matters of such remote antiquity.

One of the most important evidences cited by him is the following deed, still existing in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton Hall.² It is written, as will be seen from the accompanying photograph, in the clear handwriting of the middle of the thirteenth century, on a piece of parchment measuring 7 inches by 5½ ; the seal is gone, but the strip of parchment to which it was attached remains. It is undated, but must have been executed before 1275, when John le Strange (IV) died ; nearly all the witnesses

¹ Eyton, iii. 123-4.

² B.L.I. N.B.—All references consisting of letters and figures enclosed in a small rectangle, like the above, are the Press-marks of documents in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton.

are Norfolk men, and several are from Hunstanton, or its immediate neighbourhood. It is probable, therefore, that the deed was executed at Hunstanton on some occasion when John (IV) visited his Norfolk property, and if so, this would account for the deed having been preserved where it was executed.

The photograph is very legible; but for the benefit of readers not used to the contractions of the period, I give a transcript thereof in extended form:

Sciant presentes et futuri quod Ego Johannes Extraneus quartus, Dominus de Cnokyn, Concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Gilberto filio Gilberti de Tychewelle pro homagio et seruicio suo omnes terras et tenementa que de me tenuit in Hunstanestun, scilicet sexaginta acras terre cum pertinentiis cum mesuagio in eadem terra sito in eadem villa, quas Rollandus extraneus antecessor meus quondam dedit Herueo de Tychewell antecessori ipsius Gilberti in liberum maritimum cum Barbote cognata sua, cujus Barbote idem Gilbertus heres est. Concessi etiam et hac carta mea confirmaui eidem Gilberti totam pasturam in campis de Hunstanestun a Barbotegate uersus austrum toto tempore anni aperto, cum libera falda in illa parte campi. Ita quod idem Gilbertus nullam pasturam habebit a predicta via de Barbotegate uersus aquilonem secundum formam conuencionis dudum facte inter Dominum Johannem extraneum patrem meum et Gilbertum patrem ipsius Gilberti. Habendum et tenendum omnia tenementa predicta et pasturam predictam, cum libera falda, cum omnibus pertinentiis illi et heredibus suis et assignatis de me et heredibus meis libere, quiete, et hereditarie. Reddendo inde annuatim michi et heredibus meis quinque solidos argenti, scilicet, ad festum sancti Andree xv denarios, et ad Pascham xv denarios, et ad festum sancti Johannis in Estate xv denarios, et ad festum sancti Michaelis xv denarios pro omni seruicio consuetudine et exactione. Et ego Johannes et heredes mei Warantizabimus, adquietabimus, et defendemus totam predictam terram et pasturam cum libera falda et omnibus pertinentiis predicto Gilberto et heredibus suis et assignatis per predictum seruicium contra omnes homines in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis Testibus, Domino Johanne de Lee, Domino Rogero de Toftes, Domino Hamone de Mustroy, Andrea de Syarnebrune,¹ Willelmo Tristram, Rogero des Hys de Hunstanestun, Galfrido Banyard, Roberto Buleman, Willelmo filio Ricardi, Johanne Bagge, Willelmo Coco, et allis.

The designation 'Johannes Extraneus quartus, Dominus de Cnokyn,' as the punctuation of the original shows, undoubtedly means the fourth le Strange, who was called John, and *not* the fourth lord of Knokyn—there are several instances in the family

¹ Shernbourne.

charters in which the grantor styles himself John the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth, for the sake of distinction.

Here, then, we have proof that Roland was an ancestor of the four successive John le Stranges, the first of whom appears in public life as early as 1155, so that, as Eyton points out, Roland must have lived at least as early as the reign of Henry I.

Another deed, discovered by Eyton in the Castleacre Chartulary,¹ settles decisively that Roland le Strange was the father of John le Strange (I) and his three brothers, and also gives the name of Roland's wife as Matilda. This charter must have passed between 1160, when Hamo died, and 1179, when John died. It has been printed by Eyton, but is so important on genealogical grounds that I give a photograph of it from the copy preserved in the Castleacre Chartulary,² as well as an extended version of it.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod Ego Johannes Extraneus dedi deo et sancte Marie de Acra et monachis ibidem deo servientibus vi acras terre in campo de luceam,³ in fine culture de melegrene, in liberam et perpetuam elemosynam, pro salute anime patris mei Rollandi et Matilde matris mee et Hamonis fratris mei et mee et heredum meorum, et omnium parentum meorum. Hujus donacionis testes sunt, Willielmus capellanus de luceam, Willielmus filius Alani, Radulfus Extraneus,⁴ Galfridus de Berlingeham,⁵ Willielmus des Baus, Durannus Extraneus,⁶ Willielmus de Burna,⁷ Petrus de Hunstanston, Lefwinus prepositus, Walterus de Hunstanston, Hamo clericus, Gwido filius Rogeri, Rogerus faber.

The Castleacre Chartulary has also preserved to us two more deeds, made, as Eyton thinks, early in the reign of Henry I, in each of which the name of Roland le Strange is found as a witness. The first of these is a grant by Roger son of Wimer, who was Steward (*Dapifer*) to the second William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, of the church of Kempston, with other Norfolk churches, tithes, and lands to the Priory of Castleacre, which had been founded in 1085; the name of the first lay witness to this deed is given as 'Rodlando ext^aneo.'

The second charter is a grant from Alan fitz Flaald and

¹ Eyton, x. 260.

² Harl. MSS. 2110, fo. 34.

³ Litcham.

⁴ Probably of Little Ercall, youngest brother of the grantor.

⁵ Burlingham, between Norwich and Yarmouth.

⁶ Of Litcham.

⁷ Burnham.

Adelina his wife, the ancestors of the fitz Alan family, to the same priory of lands in Kempston and other Norfolk places, the third witness thereto being 'Ruaf Ext^aneo,' followed by 'Gorhanno' and 'Oddone.' These early charters have been printed in full in Dugdale's 'Monasticon,'¹ and in part by Carthew,² so it is not worth reprinting them here, but I give photographs of them from the Castleacre Chartulary.³

In the fifty years which have elapsed since Eyton wrote, only one document has come to light which contains mention of 'Roland' le Strange, under a variant of the name which, at first sight, might seem doubtful, but the context of the charter, both as to persons and localities, renders it reasonably certain that 'Riuallonus' Extraneus may be identified with the 'Ruallus' or 'Rualdus' who attested Alan fitz Flaald's grant to Castleacre. In Mr. J. Horace Round's 'Calendar of Documents Preserved in France, Illustrative of the History of Great Britain and Ireland, 918-1206,' issued in 1899 among the publications of the Record Office, there occurs a charter,⁴ undated, but considered by Mr. Round to have been passed before the year 1122, which belongs to the Abbey of St. Florent on the Loire, near Saumur, in Anjou. It is in the form of a notification that Alan son of Flaald has granted to St. Florent and his monks the church and tithes of Sporle in Norfolk (not far from Castleacre), with certain lands there and in the neighbouring parish of Mileham, free from all claims, specially from that of the monks of the Holy Trinity [Norwich Cathedral], and assigning to them twenty shillings a year from his ferm of Sporle. The testing clause is as follows :

Testes sunt hi : Arketellus presbiter ; Ivo diaconus de laicis, Odo de Norwico ; Hamo Got Gurhant ; Riuallonus Extraneus ; Garinus de Marisco ; Urfoen filius Fulcherii ; Alanus Uruoni filius ; Bondo ; Torkil filius eius ; Riuallonus monachorum famulus ; Osbertus et Arketellus frater eius.

Two of these witnesses, viz. Odo of Norwich and Hamo Got Gurhant, may perhaps be identified with the 'Oddo' and 'Gorhannus' who, as we have seen, attested the same grantor's gift to Castleacre.

¹ Ed. 1817-30, v. 51.

² Harl. MSS. 2110, fo. 26.

³ *History of Launditch*, ii. 118 and 123.

⁴ P. 414, No. 1149.

De eccl'is be-
moſt d'umbrā
est hec p'sti.
d'or s'c'z orare i monach' de ac. s. in tris. in eccl'is. in decimis. i nei at eccl'iam de keneſtun
ē p'prietatis suis. Et eccl'iam de dūmhā ē p'p'riū suis. Et eccl'iam de f'lecheſtū cū p'p'riū suis.
i Northreſfeld. i dual eccl'ias de Weſenham tōp' ē p'p'riū suis. i decimā de d'niō meo in ead' villi. Et decimā
i Wincetōtſſa t'ias de p'uy. sol. Et om' decimas q's hōes mei ill' dederūt. Et decimā de d'niō de lechſham.
i. ij. t'is. p'uy. sol. i. t'ia de f'lecheſtū. i de molendino. Et decimā de Northreſfeld. Et decimā de d'niō de pomio meo. Et decimā
hā i Smetſſa unā de Wincetōtſſa. Et q'qd' dedi i Northreſtū i m' tōngl'ham. cū tenuira ad mundi. Et
i keneſt.

[illegible][illegible]

Professor T. F. Tout, who has given me much assistance, especially with regard to anything connected with Wales or Welsh names, considers that the source of the name is the Celtic 'Rhiwallon' (mod. Welsh), not 'Rolandus,' though he suspects that the two may be connected; hence the right form in Latin would be 'Ruallus' rather than Rualdus, though 'll' often='ld,' as, *e.g.* 'vadletus'='vallettus.' Round, in his 'Peerage and Family History,' p. 123, calls him Rhiwallon Extraneus; Professor Tout says that it is perhaps better to call him Riuallonus rather than Rivallonus, as it shows that the name was the same in Brittany, as the Rhiwallon of the Welsh.

Mr. Round also cites four other charters which mention a 'Riuallonus,' but do not give him any surname, so he cannot with certainty be identified with the Riuallonus Extraneus of Alan fitz Flaald's charter to St. Florent; moreover, these charters are about forty years earlier in date. The first of them is a confirmation, dated the 14th of June 1082, by William I, of a grant by Count Robert of Mortain to St. Martin of Marmoutier, near Tours, of a church and land; the last witness thereto is 'Geoffrey Riuallonidis.'¹ The next charter is an undated grant by William I to the church of St. Mary, Mortain, of Puddle Hinton, co. Dorset, among the witnesses to which is 'Geoffrey son of Riuallon.'² The third is another undated grant by William I of land at Ceaux to the Holy Trinity at Fécamp and St. Stephen of Caen, at the prayer of William, son of Riuallon of Dol, Abbot of St. Florent, and of his brother John, a monk in the said house.³ Round says that this gift was certainly made before December 26, 1083, when an agreement relating to it was concluded between the monks of St. Florent and Mont St. Michel.

The last of the four charters is an undated notification of a grant of land by Robert of Mortain to the monks of St. Martin at Mortain, the first witness thereto being 'Gaufredus Riuallonides'; Round dates this as *circa* 1095.⁴

¹ Round, *C.D.F.*, No. 1201; *Regesta*, i. 39, No. 145.

² Round, *C.D.F.*, No. 1206; *Regesta*, i. 55, No. 204.

³ Round, *C.D.F.*, No. 1116; *Regesta*, i. 44, No. 158.

⁴ Round, *C.D.F.*, No. 1205.

The grant of Alan fitz Flaald to Castleacre is especially interesting, in that it locates in France, and associates together there, the ancestor of the Fitzalans and of the Royal House of Stewart, with Roland, the first known ancestor of the House of le Strange. Concerning the latter individual nothing further has come down to us ; as to who he was or whence he came we know nothing, except that, at a period when names had a real meaning, he was called 'the Stranger' or 'the Foreigner,' and was known by that designation in France as well as in England. Eyton¹ draws attention to the fact that the appellation was originally borne by, or applied to, more than one family in England ; he instances Mabel, the eldest daughter and eventual co-heiress of Warin de Buwardsley, himself a grandson of that Warin de Metz who figured in the story of the tournament at Peverel ; the Pipe Rolls of 6 Richard I (A.D. 1194) contain a pardon granted to Adam de Beysin, a tenant in chief, for marrying without licence Warin's daughter, therein described as Mabel le Strange. From this Eyton draws the inference that Warin de Metz was not only akin to the family of le Strange, but might well be described by the same name.

Eyton, though he had never seen the St. Florent charter, narrowly missed apprehending the Breton connection of Flaald. He was aware that the Abbey of St. Florent possessed several ancient cells in England, among them that of Sporle in Norfolk, with which Alan fitz Flaald had something to do, and he surmises² that this connection pointed to some fact in their early history which was not patent to him. Further, he pointed out that Henry I endeavoured to strengthen his hold on the sceptre by creating a new aristocracy, selected not exclusively from among the Normans, but largely from others, both foreigners and English of doubtful origin, such as Warin de Metz and fitz Flaald, whom he brought into England and enfeoffed in many counties there. Such scanty evidence as there is seems to point to the conjecture that the le Stranges were ultimately Breton, as the original Celtic name Riualon suggests : if so, 'extraneus' probably meant just

¹ Eyton, ii. 7.

² Eyton, vii. 211-232 ; *Archæolog. Journal* for 1856, xiii. 333-354.

what 'Welsh' meant to English and Germans, viz. the man speaking a strange tongue. It must be admitted, however, that we have no evidence that Dol and its district ever spoke Breton—but rather the contrary.

Mr. J. H. Round¹ discovered the real parentage of Flaald in the charters of St. Florent de Saumur. These show that he was the son of Alan, the *dapifer* of Dol, on the borders of Brittany, and was present at the dedication of Monmouth Priory in 1101 or 1102. A little group of families from Dol appear to have settled in England, where Alan founded Sporle Priory in Norfolk as a cell of St. Florent, and among the Bretons who witnessed the charter of its foundation is seen, says Mr. Round, the name of Rhiwallon Extraneus, 'the founder of the Norfolk family of le Strange, which, more than five centuries later, was so ardent in its loyalty to Alan's descendants, the Stuart Kings of England.'

The Breton connection is of further interest as indicating that there is a grain of truth in the Trouvère legend, quoted by Leland and Dugdale, that the first of the family who came to England was son of a Duke of Brittany.

During the whole of the twelfth century we have evidence of constant and intimate association between the fitz Alans and the le Stranges. We have seen that William fitz Alan witnessed the grant of John le Strange (I) to Castleacre, and that John's father, Roland, witnessed Alan fitz Flaald's grant to the same priory, as well as his charter to St. Florent. Both families were connected with the counties of Norfolk and of Shropshire; we shall see below that John le Strange (I) held land in Hunstanton under fitz Alan, and that his brother Guy had a grant of lands in Warwickshire from William fitz Alan. For several successive generations it may almost be said that there is not a fitz Alan charter that is not witnessed by a le Strange, and *vice versâ*. Such reiterated acts of intimacy and interdependence between two families which, as has been shown, came from overseas from the same corner of Brittany, seem to point to some community of blood. Is it not likely that Roland, known over there as 'the

¹ *P.F.H.*, pp. 115-130.

Stranger,' may have been kinsman to Alan, possibly also an 'extraneus' or foreigner, the *dapifer* of Dol? This is a mere surmise, warranted by no proof, but a random shot may sometimes hit the mark.

Whether kinsmen or not, it is clear that Alan of Dol and Roland came from the same region, and it is somewhat curious that this man from the March of Brittany should have got his establishment in England from the analogous district of the Welsh March. It is desirable to lay special stress on the point, already mentioned, that le Strange belongs to a group of 'new men,' from the extreme west of Normandy and Anjou, with connections and names from the other side of the Breton border, whom the policy of Henry I transplanted into England with the object of counterbalancing the dangerous power of the Norman nobles already settled there by the introduction of new blood drawn from his hereditary possessions oversea. Early chroniclers, connected perhaps by family ties with the first Norman settlers, depreciate the social standing of the new-comers; Orderic-Vitalis, for instance, says:¹

Alios . . . de ignobili stirpe illustravit, de pulvere, ut ita dicam, extulit. . . . Inde Goiffedus de Clintona, Radulfus Basset, et Hugo de Bocalanda, Guillegrip et Rainerius de Bada, Guillielmus Trossebot, et Haimon de Falesia, Guigan Algazo, et Robertus de Bostare, aliique plures.

It was probably prejudice which made Orderic say that all the new men were 'de infimo genere.'

Mr. Round² has called attention to the group of families from Dol, whom Henry I knew in his youth, when as a younger son he was lord of the Côtentin, and whom, when king, he endowed with fiefs in England. In addition to Alan fitz Flaald, he cites:

Richard de Réviers, ancestor of the Earls of Devon, the Hayes of Haye-du-Puits, were given the Honour of Halnaker (Sussex); the Aubignys, afterwards Earls of Arundel, obtained from him a fief in Norfolk; the two St. John brothers, from St. Jean-le-Thomas, were granted lands in Oxfordshire and Sussex, and founded another famous house; while the family of Paynel also, sprung from the Côtentin, owed to Henry lands in England.

If 'Roland-Rhiwallon' be, as is most likely, connected with

¹ Lib. xi. c. 2.

² P.F.H. 123-4.

Eggesfeld.

Carta Joh le Strange de t̃ra de Eggesfeld que fuit quidam t̃ra
 dum sit omibz tam p̃sen. Rad de h̃m̃staneſton.
 tibus q̃a futuris catholice fidei cultoribz quod Ego Johannes
 Cognovito Le Strange assensu 7 voto uxoris mee 7 heredu
 meor p̃ amore dei et ec̃e dei genitricis virginis marie p̃ salute
 7 remedio anime mee 7 dñi mei Regis Henr̃ Junioris 7 Alieno
 ris Regine 7 filior̃ uor̃ 7 om̃i pentum eor̃ 7 p̃ salute Will̃i Co
 mitis 7 Harim̃ dñi mei. 7 Adelize Regine 7 filior̃ uor̃ 7 pa
 rentum uor̃ 7 p̃ salute ux̃is mee 7 heredum meor̃ 7 p̃ animabus
 p̃is mei 7 matris mee 7 om̃i pentu meor̃. Do. 7 p̃sentis ferre
 scripto Confirmo in libam elemosinam deo 7 ec̃e sc̃e marie
 de Bm̃h̃m et monach̃ ibidem deo 7 ec̃e sc̃e marie famulantibz
 libere 7 quiete p̃suis 7 ab om̃i actione et seculari servit̃o iure p̃
 petuo q̃a me 7 heredes meos 7 erga om̃es hom̃es totu illud feudu
 quod Rad de h̃m̃staneſton habuit in villa de Eggesfeld 7 fil̃ eius
 Simo post eu. Deinde fr̃ uir̃ Reinold' le Brun. quibz ego ut le
 gittimus heres iure hereditario successi. Grato itaqz p̃dictu ex
 regro feudum in t̃ra 7 bosco 7 homagio 7 omibz quibz iure p̃ncip̃
 7 consuetudinibz iure elemosinario nich̃ t̃i penitus ut successoribus
 meis in posterum p̃fueris nisi solimodo oracionu subsidia. Cum co
 nacionis testes sunt. Rad Le Strange. Will̃ de h̃m̃staneſton. Ra
 mulph' Elius. p̃sona ec̃ie eiusdem ville 7 filij ei'. Walt' Northland.
 Florenam'. Will̃ filij Will̃ de h̃m̃staneſton. Rg. Simo. Nichol.
 Will̃ de Bangs. Ham fil' Bm̃th. Will̃ de la more 7 Simo fr̃ ei'.
 Will̃ fil' Rad. de Berram. Ruel' de camus. 7 filij ei' Briencas.
 7 fabianus. Audemus malpas. Galf' de Lermesfete. conch' Por
 casius de Bm̃h̃m. Alanus de Bm̃h̃m.

Carta matild fil' Galf' de Suerdeston de sex acs t̃re i Eggesfeld.
 Sicut p̃sentes 7 futuri quod Ego matild filia Galf' de
 Suerdeston dedi concessi 7 p̃senti carta mea confirmam deo et
 ec̃e sc̃e marie de Bm̃h̃m 7 monach̃ ibidem deo servientibz pro
 salute anime mee 7 p̃ salute anime dñi dñi Will̃i quidam de Eggesfeld

Rhiwallon, lord of Dol, and the other St. Florent monks, he was clearly a man of standing at home, and by no means a *novus homo*. King Henry's need of replacing the disloyal Robert of Bellême and his house would be a special reason for establishing old and tried supporters like the fitz Alans and le Stranges in Shropshire and its district.

If we are unable to trace, save by conjecture, the paternal pedigree of John le Strange (I) further back than his father Roland in the early years of the twelfth century, Eyton has shown that on his mother's side there is good warrant for giving him an ancestry of three generations, through which he inherited the greater part of his Hunstanton estate; and, further, that it is to this inheritance that we must look if we wish to account for the great ascendancy and territorial influence of the family during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Much of this proof is derived from a deed whereby John le Strange (I) gave a part of his Norfolk estate, viz. Edgefield in the Hundred of Holt, to Binham Priory; this deed has been printed by Eyton, though not quite in full, so I give Eyton's extended version of it here, as well as a photograph of it from the Binham Chartulary in the British Museum.¹ It is headed therein by the words 'Carta Johannis le Strange, de terra de Egefild que fuit quondam terra Radulfi de Hunstaneston.'

Notum sit omnibus tam presentibus quam futuris Catholice fidei cultoribus quod *Ego Johannes cognomento le Strange*, assensu et voto *Uxoris mee* et heredum meorum pro amore Dei et sancte Dei genetricis Virginis Marie, pro salute et remedio anime mee et domini mei regis Henrici junioris et Alienoris regine et filiorum ipsorum et omnium parentum eorum, et pro salute Willelmi Comitis de Harundel domini mei, et Adelize regine et filiorum ipsorum et parentum ipsorum et pro salute uxoris mee, et heredum meorum, et pro animabus patris mei et matris mee et omnium parentum meorum, do et presenti ferie scripto confirmo in liberam elemosynam Deo et ecclesie sancte Marie de Binham et monachis ibidem Deo et ecclesie sancte Marie famulantibus libere et quiete prorsus et ab omni accione et seculari servicio jure perpetuo erga me et heredes meos et erga omnes homines, *totum illud feodum quod Radulfus de Hanestaneston habuit in villa de Egesfeld, et filius eius Simon post eum, deinde frater ipsius Reginaldus le Brun, quibus ego ut legitimus heres jure hereditario successi.* Trado itaque predictum ex integro feodum in terra et bosco et homagio et omnibus quibus libet pertinentiis et consuetudinibus jure elemosinario michi tam penitus vel successoribus meis in posteram reservatis

¹ Cotton MS. Cland., D. xiii., fo. 87.

nisi solum modo orncionum subsidia. Hujus donacionis testes sunt : *Radulfus Le Strange*,¹ Willelmus de Hunstaneston, Ranulphus clericus persona ecclesie eiusdem ville et filius eius, Walterus Bochlandus Normannus, Willelmus filius Willelmi de Hunstaneston, Regerius, Simon, Nicholas, Willelmus de Baucis, Hamo filius Bunch, Willelmus de la More et Simon frater eius, Willelmus filius Radulfi de Beccam, Rueldus de Camis et filii eius Briencius et Fabianus, Audoenus Malpas, Galfridus de Leringsete, Michael Portarius de Binham, Alanus de Binham.

Eyton shows that this grant must have been made not later than January 1174, as the Chartulary from which it is quoted contains also a recital and confirmation of it,² made at the petition of John le Strange by William Turbus, Bishop of Norwich, who died on January 16, 1174. The grant proves that three generations previously Edgefield had been in the possession of Ralph de Hunstanton, and since then successively in that of his sons, Simon and Reginald le Brun, after whom it came to John le Strange as the direct heir. Simon and Reginald must therefore have died without issue, and John must have been the son of their sister, not named in this deed, but whose name, Matilda, is mentioned by John in his grant to the Priory of Castleacre.³ Ralph de Hunstanton, the maternal grandfather of John le Strange (I), is undoubtedly the same as Ralph fitz Herluin, recorded in Domesday as a vassal of Roger Bigod, holding land under him at Hunstanton and Tottington.⁴

TERRA ROGERI BIGOT. HUNDRED OF SMETHEDUNA. HUNESTATUNA is held by Ralf son of Herluin. 2 ploughs on the demesne, and it was held by 1 free-man T.R.E. Then and afterwards 12 villeins, now 6 ; then as now 6 bordars ; then and afterwards 3 serfs, now 2. Then and afterwards 6 ploughs belonging to the men, and 5 acres, now 5½ ; then 1 mill, now 2, and 1 fishery. Then as now 1 rouncey, then 1 beast ; wood (land) for 40 swine ; then 16 swine, now 51. Then 80 sheep, now 50 ; 5 hives of bees. Here belong (*jacent*) 2 sokemen (with) 10 acres. The same (holds it). Then and afterwards it was worth 3 pounds, now 4. There too (*in eadem*) Torn, a freeman, held T.R.E. 1 plough on the demesne, then 3 villeins, now 2. Then 4 bordars, now 5. Then and afterwards 3 serfs, and 2½ acres of meadow. Then as now half a plough belonging to the men, 1 fishery. Then 1 cow. Then 30 sheep. And 3 sokemen (with) 5 acres of land. Then as now it was worth 20 shillings. The whole is 1 league in length and 1 league in breadth, and pays 16 pence in 20 shillings of geld.

In TOTINTUNA Ralf son of Herluin holds 4 ploughlands which Alivi he

¹ Probably the grantor's brother, of Childs' Ercall.

² *Ibid.* fo. 87.

³ *Supra*, p. 5.

⁴ *Domesday*, Norfolk fac-simile, cxxx.

T.R.E. ; then and afterwards 15 villeins, now 4 ; then and afterwards 10 bordars, now 17. Then and afterwards 8 serfs, now 4 ; 24 acres of meadow ; then as now 3 ploughs on the demesne. Then and afterwards 5 ploughs belonging to the men, now 3. Woodland for 30 swine, now 1 mill. And then as now 3 sokemen (with) 95 acres. Then and afterwards 2 ploughs, now nothing, but they could be (restored) ; then as now 1 rouncey ; then 17 beasts, now 19. Then 32 swine, now 12. Then 140 sheep, now 140 less 3 ; 24 goats. Then 63 mares, now 15. Then and afterwards it was worth 80 shillings, now 60. The whole is 2 leagues in breadth [sic: *for 'length'*], and 1 in breadth whoever may hold there, and (it pays) 15 pence for geld.¹

In addition to the above Domesday shows that Ralf fitz Herluin had the following holdings in various parts of Norfolk. In Ringstead² he held of the soke under the abbey of St. Benet's ; in Snetterton one ploughland for a manor, worth 20s. He had a further holding in Hunstanton³ of 4 freemen with 65 acres, and 2 oxen worth 4s. ; and in Sturston⁴ 1 freeman with 60 acres worth 8*d.* At Bexwell⁵ in the Hundred of Clackclose he had 1 freeman with 20 acres of land worth 2s. 8*d.* ; and in Downham⁶ 1 freeman with 12 acres, of the value of 16*d.* All the above were held of Roger Bigod, who was tenant in chief. Under William de Scohies Ralf fitz Herluin was mesne tenant in Massingham,⁷ where he held one ploughland, value 5s. ; and under Rainald, son of Ivo, Herluin, held 100 acres of land in Haveringland,⁸ worth 20s. He had also half a ploughland, worth 10s., at Tortuna (afterward known as 'Middleton's' in Booton and Witchingham).⁹ Finally among the encroachments, entered at the end of Domesday, we find¹⁰ that Ralf held the soke of Snetterton under Earl Roger.

Thus it appears that, at the period of Domesday, Ralf fitz Herluin was in possession of a considerable estate spread over nine or ten parishes in the county of Norfolk. Eyton imagines¹¹ that Ralf's fee was afterwards greatly increased by subinfeudation from William de Albin, the *Pincerna* (or Butler) of Henry I ; and indeed there seems to be no other way of accounting for the fact that Ralf's grandson, John le Strange (I), held five knights'

¹ Translation in *Victoria History of Norfolk*, ii. 96.

² *Ibid.* ii. 106.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.* ii. 159.

⁵ *Ibid.* ii. 113.

⁶ *Ibid.* ii. 145.

⁷ *Ibid.* ii. 200.

⁸ *Ibid.* ii. 95.

⁹ *Ibid.* ii. 113.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* ii. 158.

¹¹ *Ibid.* x. 264.

fees in Hunstanton and elsewhere in Norfolk under William de Albini (II), Earl of Arundel. Beside the land which Ralf inherited from his father Herluin, or acquired himself, he further inherited, through his wife Helewisa, the daughter of Hugh de Plaiz, of Barnham, in Suffolk, near Thetford. Eyton thinks that it is probable that Ralf de Plaiz, who between the years 1107 and 1120 granted lands to Thetford Priory,¹ was son and heir of Hugh, and that Ralf de Plaiz was identical with that Ralf fitz Hugh to whom William de Albini (I) gave two knights' fees in Norfolk in the time of Henry I.²

A lawsuit in the time of Richard I furnishes much information as to Ralf fitz Herluin and his wife and relations. It appears from the pleadings that the manor of Bernham (or Barnham) in Suffolk had been given in the reign of Henry I by Reginald le Brun, the second son of Ralf fitz Herluin, to the Priory of Thetford. In the year 1194 Simon de Perepunt, as attorney for John le Strange (II), sued Ralf de Plaiz for land at Barnham held by him, for the purpose of warranting to the monks. Simon de Perepunt claimed it on the ground that it had descended to John le Strange through Reginald le Brun, uncle of John (I), father of the said John, and as being the same land as had been given by Hugh de Plaiz to his daughter Helewisa when she married Ralf fitz Herluin. The Prior of Thetford agreed to renounce all his rights in one carucate of land in Barnham in favour of John le Strange, on condition that the latter gave to the monks in exchange 20s. worth of land at Tottington in Norfolk. The entry in the Plea Rolls is as follows :³

Simon de Perepunt, positus loco *Johannis extranei*, petit versus *Radulphum de Plaiz* terram de Bernham cum ejus pertinentiis, quam idem Radulphus tenet, tenendam de eodem Radulpho ad warrantizandam monachis de Tiefert sicut jus suum quod ei descendit ex parte *Reginaldi le Brun*, avunculi *Johannis extranei*, patris ipsius *Johannis*, et ut illam quam *Hugo de Plaiz* dedit cum *Helewisa filia sua in matrimonium Radulpho filio Herlewini*, et post illam tenuit eam *Reginaldus le Brun*, filius predicti *Radulphi filius Helewise*, quam idem Radulphus le Brun dedit tempore Henrici regis patris domini regis in elemosinam ecclesie et monachis

¹ Eyton, x. 261.

² *Liber Niger*, i. 287.

³ *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, Ric. I—Edw. II, p. 5, a SUFFOLC', rot. 3 ; *Rot. Cur. Regis*. I, 13, 20, 23.

de Tiefert. Et *Radulphus de Plaiz* venit et dixit quod non tenet eam in dominico set *Radulphus le Neveu* tenet de eo et nihil habet in terra illa nisi servitium terre illius. Et *Radulphus nepos* dixit quod tenet terram illam, &c. Postea ut patet eodem rotulo in dorso concordatum est inter Martinum priorem de Tiefert et *Johannem extraneum* de una carucata terre in Bernham quam predictus prior clamavit versus ipsum Johannem scilicet quod predictus prior quietum clamavit in perpetuum de se et successoribus suis prefato Johanni et heredibus suis totum jus et clameum quod habuit in predicta terra. Et pro hac quieta clamancia Johannes dedit priori et conventui de Tiefert xx solidatas terre in Totington, &c., per metis in recordo expressis.

Some entries as to the progress of this suit are given in 'Three Rolls of the King's Court in the Reign of Richard I, A.D. 1194-5,' published by the Pipe Roll Society in 1891, pp. 10, 14, 60.

Only one mention of Hunstanton in any document of earlier date than Domesday is known to me; this occurs in the Will of Ælfric, Bishop of Elmham, preserved in the British Museum.¹ It is written in Anglo-Saxon, but a transcript with English translation has been printed by B. Thorpe,² and a full-sized photograph is given in 'Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in the B.M.'³ The bishop speaks of his property as having been acquired under King Cnut, and afterwards lawfully holden under King Harold, to whom he leaves two marks of gold; the will must therefore have been written between 1035, when Cnut died, and 1039, the year of his son Harold's death. Among the bequests is the following:

'I give the land at Hunstanes tune by Eastbrook, and with the land at Holme to St. Eadmunds.'

The clerks who transcribed the Norfolk Domesday exercised considerable ingenuity in producing variants in the spelling of the name Hunstanton: it appears as Hunestuna, Hunestatuna, Huntanestuna, Hunestanesteda, and, finally, in two words, as Hunesta Nestuna.

Domesday was not compiled on the plan of taking each place separately and showing who held land there, but, contrariwise, on the plan of taking each tenant-in-chief and setting down what land he held, and who were his sub-tenants, in the various parishes

¹ *Bibl. Cotton*, ii. 85.

² *Diplomatarium Ævi Saxonici*, p. 567.

³ Part IV., fo. Lond. 1878.

throughout the county. It is worth while, therefore, to collect these scattered notices of Hunstanton, and to place them together so as to attain to a complete view of how the land of that parish was held in the year 1086.

The parish was divided between King William himself and three of his tenants-in-chief—viz. Roger Bigod, the Bishop of Thetford, and John, nephew of Waleran. The part held by the king is entered under 'Lands of Bishop Stigand which William de Noiers keeps in the King's hand.' The entry is as follows:¹

HUNDRED OF METHEDUNA (Smithdon).

HUNESTANESTEDA was held by Stigand T.R.E.; then 2 ploughs on the demesne, when W[illiam] received it 1½, and now the same; then as now 16 villeins and 4 bordars. Then 3 serfs, afterwards and now 1, and 8 acres of meadow. Then 2 ploughs belonging to the men, afterwards and now 1½; then 1 mill, half a fishery; then 1 rouncey² and now the same, and 2 beasts. And 14 swine and 44 sheep, and 4 sokemen with 60 acres. Then it was worth 70 shillings, afterwards and now 110. Here used to belong T.R.E. 1 freewoman with 30 acres of land; afterwards Ralf the Earl had this for 3 years before he made forfeiture, and when he made forfeiture. Afterwards Robert Blund held this, and Godric (held it) to farm for 30s. with other land. Siward has once more joined this to this manor, and does not pay Godric the farm; and W[illiam] de Noiers has added 4 sokemen of St. Benet's with 4 acres of land. The whole is one league in length and half [a league] in breadth, and pays 6 pence [for a geld] of 20 shillings whoever may hold there.

The portion of the 'land of Roger Bigot' was all held by Ralf fitz Herluin, and has been transcribed above. Under the heading 'The Fief of the Bishop of Thetford' is the following entry:³

HUNDRED OF SMETHEDUNA.

HUNESTANESTUNA was held by 1 sokeman of Stigand T.R.E. (as) 1 ploughland, and (there was) 1 plough. Then (there were) 3 bordars, now 2, and 2½ acres of meadow; half a mill; wood(land) for 24 swine. Then (there was) 1 fishery. The whole is worth 10 shillings.

Under the heading of 'Land of St. Benet of Ramsey' is a long entry⁴ respecting Ringstead, which was held then in chief by

¹ liv.-lv., *Vict. Hist. of Norf.* ii. 62-3.

³ CLXXXVIII. *Vict. Hist. of Norf.* ii. 119.

² A heavy draught horse.

⁴ CCXIV. *Vict. Hist. of Norf.* ii. 139.

that abbey. It concludes with a notice that 31 sokemen have been taken away from this manor who belonged to it T.R.E.; of these the King's manor in Hunstanton has 1 with 2 acres. The only other entry mentioning Hunstanton is under the heading of 'The Lands of John, Nephew of Waleran':¹

HUNDRED OF SMETHEDUNA.

HUNESTA NESTUNA is held by John [Bou], the same held it T.R.E. Then [there were] 2 ploughs, afterwards 1, now 2. Then as now 4 [villeins]. Then and afterwards 5 bordars, now 7. Then and afterwards 3 serfs, now 4, and 2 acres of meadow then as now [belonged] to the men. Then [there was] 1 cow, now 8 beasts (*animalia*). Now 40 swine. Then 1 sheep, now 40, and 3 hives of bees; and 1 sokeman with 5 acres, then and afterwards it was worth 20 shillings, now 40. [There is] 1 church without land.

It must be borne in mind that the Domesday acre was a variable quantity, considerably larger than the acre of to-day; the 120 acres, commonly reputed to have constituted a hide, contained, according to Eyton,² an area at least twice as great as that of modern statute acres. The acre of 4840 square yards was settled by statute of 31 Edw. I.

The table on p. 18 gives an analysis of the various entries relating to Hunstanton.

The population there shown is :

Freemen	.	.	.	.	.	6
Sokemen	.	.	.	.	.	16
Villeins	.	.	.	.	.	28
Bordars	.	.	.	.	.	24
Serfs	.	.	.	.	.	10
						—
						84
						—

Multiplying these figures by 5 for the average of each household would give a population of 420, and there must have been several people not included in the returns, such as ecclesiastics,

¹ CCCXIV. *Vict. Hist. of Norf.* ii. 187.

² Eyton, xii. 152.

HUNSTANTON, IN DOMESDAY

	Ploughs on Demesne	Serfs	With Acres of Meadow	Ploughs belong- ing to Men	Freemen or Women	With Acres	Sokemen	With Acres	Worth	Villeins	Bordars	Mill	Fishery	Woodland for Swine	Acres of Meadow	Rounceys	Cow	Beasts	Sheep	Swine	Hives of Bees	Length in Leagues	Breadth in Leagues	Church	Pays Geld	
—	2	1	8	1½	1	30	4	60	110s.	16	4	1	½	—	—	1	—	—	2	44	14	—	1	½	—	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6d. \\ \text{for geld of} \\ 20s. \end{array} \right.$
Lands of Bishop Sti- gand which William de Noiers keeps in the King's hand	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 16d. \text{ in } 20s. \\ \text{geld} \end{array} \right.$	
Land of Roger Bigod	2	2	—	6½	1	—	2	10	£4	6	6	2	1	40	—	1	—	—	1	50	51	5	—	—	—	
" "	1	3	2½	—	—	—	3	5	20s.	2	5	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	30	—	—	1	1	—	
" "	—	—	—	—	4	65	—	—	4s.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Bishop of Thetford	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	(1 plough)	10s.	—	2	½	1	24	2½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
St. Benet of Ramsey	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
John, nephew of Waleran	2	4	2	—	—	—	1	5	40s.	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	40	40	3	—	1	1	
Totals . .	7	10	12½	8	6	95	16	86	£13 4s.	28	24	3½	3½	64	2½	2	1	11	164	105	8	2	1½	1	1s. 10d.	

and the mesne tenants themselves or their representatives, so the population of those days could not have fallen very far short of the twentieth century average of 490.

The live stock was very different to the present day ; there were only 2 horses, 1 cow, and 8 'beasts,' probably bullocks and heifers, in the parish, though there were 164 sheep and 105 swine ; there must have been a good deal of woodland, as there was sufficient to feed 64 swine.

The existence is recorded of $3\frac{1}{2}$ mills—though how half a mill could exist by itself is difficult to understand ; there were also $3\frac{1}{2}$ fisheries, but these were not held quite in the same hands as the mills ; the King had 1 mill and only half a fishery ; Roger Bigod's tenant, Ralf fitz Herluin, had 2 mills and 2 fisheries ; while the Bishop of Thetford held 1 fishery but only half a mill. It has been a matter of discussion whether any of the fisheries mentioned in the Norfolk Domesday were sea-fisheries. From the fact that in Hunstanton there were exactly the same number of fisheries and mills—the latter being no doubt water-mills—and having regard to the limited amount of running water in the place, it looks as if all the fisheries were fresh water, and situated in the pools above the respective mills.

The amount of meadow land recorded was very small, only 15 acres ; but there may have been some not included in the land held by the freemen and inferior tenants. Fifteen ploughs worked in the parish, whereof 7 belonged to the demesnes and 8 to the men ; the oxen for these ploughs, probably a team of 8 for each plough, ought to be added to the head of live stock on the ground, as they are clearly not included in any other part of the returns. Eight hives of bees are thought worthy of mention, as they supplied the lack of sugar of those days.

Then, as now, Hunstanton was situated in the Hundred of Smithdon, or Smethdon (the smooth dunes), but it is as well to call attention to the fact that not only has considerable readjustment of parishes in the Hundreds of the north-west corner of Norfolk been made since those days, but also that, in order to make the units for collecting the King's geld more equal, considerable alterations of the primitive areas were made at the time of

the Great Survey. The author of the introduction to Domesday in the 'Victoria History of Norfolk' ¹ thinks that these northern Hundreds were originally laid out so as to give to each of them a proportion of salt marsh for its sheep ; possibly the arrangement was made so as to assign some salt marsh to as many parishes as possible rather than to each Hundred. Be that as it may, one Domesday Hundred, that of Docking, has disappeared entirely, having been absorbed by that of Smithdon. The greater part of Snettisham was transferred from Smithdon to Freebridge, and Brothercross and Gallow were arranged so that the latter ran up to the north coast near Holkham. The Hundred of Smithdon, as it existed at the date of Domesday, comprised only the following parishes :

Holm.	Secesford, with berewite of Freng.
Hecham.	Elvestorp (<i>Ingoldisthorpe</i>).
Rincsteda.	Nettingnetuna (<i>Eaton</i>).
Hunestatuna.	Tornham.

The Hundred of Docking contained the following :

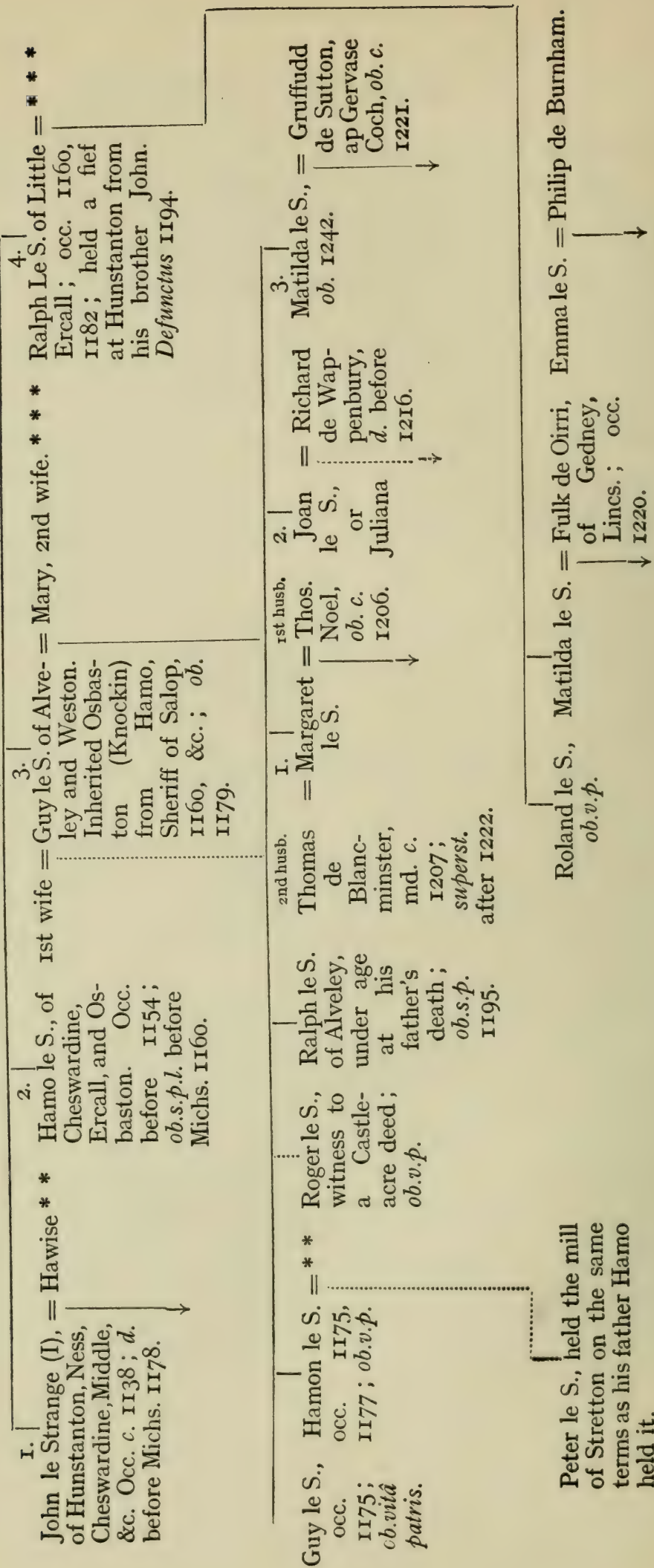
Docking.	Freng.
Sutmere (<i>Summerfield</i>).	Broncestre.
Tigeswella (<i>Titchwell</i>).	Brecham (<i>Bircham</i>).
Stanho.	Niwetuna (<i>Bircham Newton</i>).
Part of Snettesham.	Scernebruna (<i>Shernbourne</i>).

Roland le Strange was succeeded by his eldest son John, and also left three other sons, Hamon, Guy, and Ralph, all of whom were enfeoffed in lands in Shropshire in the middle of the twelfth century ; it will, however, be more convenient to trace what is known of them when dealing with their eldest brother, John (I), in the following chapter. It does not, of course, follow that, because no daughters are recorded, none existed. In feudal times women, unless they were heiresses, were of small account. If they were heiresses they were married while still of tender years, and when their husbands died were often remarried three or even four times, and may have sometimes then got a chance

of pleasing themselves—*e.g.* Alice de Lacy, of whom further on.¹ But when they were not heiresses little is recorded of them, even if their existence is mentioned ; filial piety sometimes has preserved the Christian name of a mother in cases where, not being an heiress, no mention of her father's name has come down to us.

¹ Chapter VII.

ROLAND LE STRANGE = MATILDA LE BRUN.



CHAPTER II

JOHN LE STRANGE (I)

Circa 1135-1178

IT has been shown in the preceding chapter that Roland le Strange, who witnessed the St. Florent Charter *circa* 1122, left four sons, viz. (1) John, who succeeded him; (2) Hamon; (3) Guy, and (4) Ralph. As far as is known Roland possessed no property elsewhere than in Norfolk; yet, early in the reign of Henry II, we find that at least three of his sons were enfeoffed of land in Shropshire, though, curiously enough, the eldest brother was the last to receive a grant there, perhaps because he already held five knights' fees of old feoffment in Norfolk under William, Earl of Arundel. How are we to account for this transfer of a whole family across England, from Norfolk to Shropshire? Evidently it was owing to the necessities of the King. The le Stranges were not the only family dealt with in this way. Alan fitz Flaald, ancestor of the fitz Alans, and, like Roland le Strange, of Breton or Angevin origin, had received a grant of the Honour of Mileham in Norfolk before September 1101.¹ After the forfeiture of the estates of Robert de Bellême, Earl of Shrewsbury, in 1102, Henry I invested Alan fitz Flaald with the Honour of Warin, Sheriff of Shropshire, which not only included lands in that county, but also in those of Stafford, Warwick, and Sussex.² Clearly Henry II pursued the policy, initiated by his grand-

¹ Eyton, vii. 217.

² Eyton, vii. 220.

father, of supplanting the Domesday nobility, and strengthening his hold of the sceptre, by importing from his foreign province of Anjou new and able leaders attached to his own person. Along the Welsh border it was especially necessary for him to have loyal and trusty vassals, and here, consequently, he planted the fitz Alans and le Stranges, and other families of Breton or Angevin origin, to uphold the interests of his Crown during his frequent and prolonged absences on the Continent. Next to the fitz Alans the le Stranges became perhaps the most important family in the middle part of the Welsh March, and Eyton pays a tribute to their ability and loyalty which I cannot refrain from quoting. He says :

As a race they were distinguished for their abilities in field and Council. They were distinguished yet more for the most steadfast loyalty. The feoffments of John, Guy, and Hamo le Strange by Henry Fitz-Empress and William Fitz Alan (I) were tributes to men of ascertained ability. For three long-lived and successive generations the Heads of this House were indefinitely trusted by contemporary Kings. For the same period no le Strange ever betrayed such trust, or was suspected of betraying it.¹

This is a record of which any family may well be proud.

The first of the four brothers to receive lands in Shropshire was, apparently, the second son, Hamon. The *Testa de Nevill* or *Liber Feodorum*, containing returns of those who held of the king *in capite* from Richard I to Edward I, supplies the earliest evidence that this Shropshire grant was made in the reign of Henry II ; the entry reads :

Johannes Extraneus tenet maneria de Nesse et de Chesewortham de dono regis Henrici patris domini regis Johannis, et debet servicium unius militis, que solent reddere ad scaccarium xi lib. x s.²

Further proof of this feoffment, as far as regards Cheswardine, is afforded by an abstract of a charter, preserved in the Plea Rolls,³ from which it appears that Henry II before he came to the throne had given to Hamon land worth £7 in Wellington, Salop, which, for some reason that is not apparent, the King

¹ Eyton, x. 261.

² *Testa de Nevill*, p. 56.

³ Coram rege Rolls, 21 Edw. I, 36, dorse.

subsequently resumed, giving him in exchange the manor of Cheswardine, worth only £4, to be held by the service of half a knight's fee. This abstract is printed by Eyton, but is so important, as proving the earliest feoffment of a le Strange in Shropshire, that it is worth transcribing here :

Henricus, rex Anglie, et dux Normannie et Aquitanie, et comes Andegavie, &c. Sciatis me dedisse Hamoni Extraneo Chedewordam cum pertinenciis, que reddebat iv libras tempore regis Henrici avi mei, in excambium vii libratarum terre quas dederam [eidem Hamoni] de dominio meo de Wellintona priusquam rex essem ; ad tenendum ipsi et heredibus suis de me et heredibus meis, in feodo et hereditate per servicium dimidii feodi militis.

John le Strange (I) lived through the whole of the troublous reign of Stephen (1135-54), and during the first twenty-four years of the reign of Henry II. In Hunstanton he inherited two distinct manors, one from his father Roland, and another through his mother Matilda. He must have succeeded his father towards the close of the reign of Henry I, as his name appears as a witness to a grant by William fitz Alan and his wife Christiana of land in Sheriff Hales to Haughmond Church. Eyton¹ shows cause for believing that this deed belongs to the period before 1138, since in that year fitz Alan was exiled from Shropshire and deprived of his estates. At that period John le Strange held no fiefs in Shropshire ; the large possessions which the family subsequently possessed in that county all date from the reign of Henry II, or shortly before it, a reward doubtless for their services to the Empress Matilda and her son during the usurpation of Stephen. The Breton (or Angevin) connection of the family is emphasised by their loyalty to the house of Anjou ; hence the Cheswardine grant by Henry before 1154, and the subsequent solid establishment of the family in Shropshire.

Professor Tout has drawn my attention to the fact that the early stages of family history often illustrate important historical points. The present instance brings out two points : (a) Henry I's '*new men*,' brought from his own personal possessions beyond sea ; and (b) Henry II's continuation of his '*avitæ consuetudines*,' as shown by his settling his father's friends in the Welsh

¹ vii. 286, n.

March, where a loyal nobility was so particularly necessary. It is further worthy of note that all the great families of the Welsh March were also well established in some other part of England; the Montgomeries in Sussex, the fitz Alans also afterwards in Sussex, the Bohuns were Earls of Essex as well as of Hereford, the Warrenes in Surrey and Yorkshire. The Mortimers alone were mainly Marcher, but had some lands elsewhere. The political and military importance of all these rests on their Marcher estates, and so also was it with the le Stranges; in Norfolk they were comfortable barons, of local importance mainly; in the March they could play a considerable military and political part. Many of the great movements of mediæval history began in the March, and were started by Marcher barons.

No mention of John le Strange during the nineteen years of Stephen's reign has come down to us. The first instance to which a precise date can be attached is the charter, in the Salop Chartulary, by which William fitz Alan, on the day of his restoration to his lands, viz. on July 25, 1155, granted the patronage of the church of Wroxeter to his own foundation of Haughmond Abbey. Not only was this donation witnessed by John le Strange, but about twenty years later he executed a curious certificate, preserved in the Haughmond Chartulary at Sundorn, notifying his remembrance of the original grant.¹

Between the years 1155 and 1160 John's name occurs many times as a witness to charters, mostly those of fitz Alan. John and his brother Wido (Guy) attested a grant of fitz Alan's to the monks of Shrewsbury, which was included in Henry II's confirmation of 1155.² A confirmation by William fitz Alan of a grant by Gilbert de Hadnall to Haughmond of 1155-58 is tested by '*Johanne Straunge cum duobus fratribus ejus, Wydone et Hamone.*'³ John and Wido were the two first witnesses to William fitz Alan's grant of land in Downton to the same abbey;⁴ and the same two le Stranges similarly attested fitz Alan's confirmation of their brother Hamo's grant of Naginton to Haughmond.⁵

¹ Eyton, i. 73 n., 251; vii. 312.

² *Ibid.* x. 45.

⁴ *Ibid.* vii. 275.

³ *Ibid.* vii. 236.

⁵ *Ibid.* viii. 8.

H. Rex Angl. et Dux Norm. et Aquitan. et Com. And. Ep. Cestrie et Justiciarius.
 et Baron. et Vic. et consiliarius. et omnibus fidelibus suis de Salopeshire. Sal. Scitis me dedisse
 Wido. Linc. in feod. et hereditario Munuelegham q. solebat in redditu in feod. in
 mea. c. xx. sol. Quia volo et firmo p. p. qd. ipse et heredes sui eandem terram teneant
 cu. omnibus pertinentiis suis de me et de heredibus meis b. et in pace libe. et q. et
 et honorifice p. p. p. dimidij milior. Et Walter. Ep. Cestrie. Ric. de Hum.
 Conest. et Ric. de Linc. Ric. de Linc. Ric. de Capella. H. de Dill.
 Conest. Ap. H. de H.



HENRY II. to GUY LE STRANGE.

Grant of ALVELEY.

All these charters passed during the period between 1155 and 1160, and many similar instances might be given.

We now come to the period in which evidence as to the successive enfeoffments of the family is derived from public documents preserved at the Record Office : the earliest that have survived are known as the Pipe Rolls. These invaluable records contain the annual accounts current of the King with the Sheriff of each county, whose duty it was to collect the taxes paid by the tenants *in capite*, in the shape of fines, reliefs, the farm of the county, and other payments due to the Crown ; while the disbursements include sums paid by the Sheriff for repairs to the King's castles, the purchase of ammunition and necessities, and special items expressly ordered by the King's writ. Many of these Rolls have been printed and edited ; a few of the earlier ones were printed by the Record Commission, and those before 1200 are now in course of publication by the Pipe Roll Society.

The Pipe Roll for the first year of Henry II is lost ; the earliest entry relating to a le Strange is as follows :

2 Hen. II. [A.D. 1155].

SALOPESCIRA. Willelmus filius Alani reddit compotum de firma de . . .
In terris datis . . . Widoni Extraneo C. et x.^s.

The '*terræ datæ*' were lands granted by the King to private individuals out of the royal domain in the county ; and, as the profits of such lands were no longer received by the Sheriff, he was allowed for them when rendering his account at the Exchequer. The above entry, therefore, shows that, in or before 1155, Guy le Strange had had a grant from the King of some manor worth £5 10s., allowance for which was made to the Sheriff, William fitz Alan. A similar entry appears in the Rolls for 1156 and 1157. The name of the manor held by Guy does not appear in the Pipe Roll, but, fortunately, the original grant itself, showing that it was the manor of Alveley in Shropshire, has survived, and is preserved in the British Museum ;¹ as will be seen from the photograph opposite it is beautifully written in bold letters, and still has attached to it a considerable portion of the great seal of green

¹ *Cart. Cotton*, xi. 14.

wax, showing on the obverse the King seated, holding in his left hand an orb, surmounted by a dove on a cross, while on the reverse is the King on horseback, armed with sword and shield, and wearing a conical helmet. An English translation of this important charter has been given by Eyton,¹ but the original has not, I believe, been printed before, so I give an extended version which may be collated with the photograph :

Henricus Rex Anglie et Dux Normannie et Aquitanie et Comes Andegavie. Episcopo Cestrensi et Justiciariis et Baronibus et Vicecomitibus et ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis de Salopescyra Salutem. Sciatis me dedisse Widoni Extraneo in feodo et hereditate Aluinelegham que solebat mihi reddere in firma mea. c. et x. solidos. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod ipse et heredes sui eandem terram teneant cum omnibus pertinentiis suis de me et de heredibus meis bene et in pace libere et quiete et honorifice per seruicium dimidii militis. Testibus Waltero Episcopo Cestrensi. Ricardo de Humez, Conestabulario. Manasse Biset Dapifero. Ricardo de Luci. Ricardo de Campvilla. H. de Oilli Conestabulario. Apud Notingham.

Eyton shows ² that the King was at Nottingham about February 1155, which gives us the approximate date of the charter.

The same Rolls for the 2, 3, and 4 Hen. II contain similar entries with regard to Hamo Extraneus, showing that among the '*terræ datæ*' he held lands worth £4. That the land thus held by Hamo was the manor of Cheswardine has been shown by the entry in the Plea Rolls, quoted above.³

As Hamo only survived for about three years, it is as well to set down here what other mention there is of him. In conjunction with his eldest brother John he witnessed the deed of Roger Powis, attesting William fitz Alan's reinstatement in his Shropshire estates on July 25, 1155, and the latter's donation of Wroxeter church to the canons of Haughmond.⁴ Between 1155 and 1158 William fitz Alan (I) confirmed a grant made by Gilbert de Hadnall to Haughmond Abbey, and this confirmation is attested by 'Johanne Straunge, cum duobus fratribus ejus, Wydone et Hamone.'⁵

Besides Ness and Cheswardine, which he held in chief, Hamo

¹ iii. 122.

² *Itinerary of Hen. II*, p. 6.

³ *Supra*, p. 25.

⁴ *Collect. Top. et Gen.* v. 176; Chartulary of Haughmond, fo. 236-7.

⁵ Haughmond Chartulary, quoted by Eyton, x. 45.

possessed as mesne tenant at least three other manors in Shropshire, Little or Childs' Ercall, Betton Strange, and Osbaston with Kynaston. Eyton supposes that William fitz Alan, on his restoration to his Shropshire estates in 1155, enfeoffed Hamo in the manor of Little Ercall ;¹ at all events after the death of Hamo, fitz Alan confirmed a grant of a member thereof called Nagington, made by Hamo to Haughmond Abbey ; this confirmation, witnessed by John and Guy le Strange, is printed in full by Eyton.² An inquest held in the year 1200 also proves Hamo's possession of the manor of Little Ercall. An Assize of the *Curia Regis* was held in the quinzaine after Easter in the 1st of John to ascertain whether Hamon, the uncle of John le Strange, was seised in his demesne as of fee of the fourth part of a knight's fee in ' Arkelaw ' on the day of his death, and whether the said John was his heir ; which land was then held by Fulk de Oirri and Matilda his wife ; the jury found that Hamon was in seisin thereof, and that John was his heir.³

It may be well to set down here that a knight's fee denoted so much land of inheritance as was roughly sufficient to maintain a knight with suitable retinue, which, in the time of Henry III, was often reckoned at about £15 per annum ; as money was then worth about forty-five times its then value, a knight's fee would be the equivalent of an annual income of £675 in the twentieth century. The value of knights' fees varied, however, within wide limits. There are many cases in which grantees of land were treated with special liberality by the Crown. It is safest, therefore, to call a knight's fee the amount of land held by the service of finding a fully equipped knight to serve in the lord's wars. The subject is too complex to summarise in a paragraph. Briefly, it may be considered as the amount of land, whatever it was, that paid as rent a knight's service.

The evidence as to the manor of Betton is not very clear ; apparently Hamo was a tenant of the abbot of Shrewsbury in respect of a part of the manor. It appears that, shortly before his death, in making a final disposition of his property, Hamo

¹ Eyton, viii. 8.

² *Ibid.* 9 ; and Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 148.

³ *Rot. Cur. Reg.* ii. 187, m. 6.

gave a strip of land, called Bulerugge, in Betton, to Haughmond Abbey, in order that the canons might possess both sides of a mill-stank on Condovery brook. Eyton¹ believes that 'Hamo le Strange was able to make this grant as Lord of Betton Strange by feoffment of the monks of Shrewsbury, who had alienated to him that part of the manor, which was thenceforth called Betton Strange in distinction from Abbot's Betton—the part which the monks retained.'

Osbaston and Kynaston, originally two distinct manors, were united at *Domesday*, but separated later on when they came to the fitz Alans. Osbaston included the territory afterwards called Knockin, and had been given by the fitz Alans to the Haughtons, by whom it was alienated about the time of the accession of Henry II to Hamo le Strange. The descent of the manor is best given in the words of Eyton :

The said Hamo died within five years after Henry II became King, and, leaving no lawful issue, his eldest surviving brother, John, became his heir-at-law. However, by some arrangement, before or soon after Hamo le Strange's death, Osbaston passed to the second brother, Guy le Strange, and Guy is said by tradition to have founded Knockin Castle. Thus I understand the site of Knockin Castle to have been originally in the manor of Osbaston ; but a castle, wherever founded, naturally became the caput of the manor which included it ; so that, thenceforth, we hear little of Osbaston, but much of Knockin.²

Hamo le Strange must have died without issue before Michaelmas 1160, as we shall see below that, in the Pipe Roll for the sixth year of Henry II, his elder brother John appears for the first time as tenant *in capite* of the manor of Cheswardine in the place of Hamo.³

John's name appears for the first time in that Roll for the year 1158, the entry being as follows :

4 Hen. II [Xmas. 1158].

SALOPESCIRA. Willelmus filius Alani reddit compotum de . . . in terris datis Johanni Extraneo vij li et x^s de prestito Regis per breve Regis.

Præstitum, or imprest, was an advance of money out of the Exchequer, for which the Sheriff had to render account ; *e.g.* for prepayments towards expenses of carrying on the King's service.

¹ ii. 174, 183.

² Eyton, x. 366.

³ Eyton, x. 366.

The expression seems to be sometimes used as implying a grant of a temporary nature.

Here again it will be noticed that the name of the manor worth £7 10s. is not given in the Roll, nor is it entered in that for 1159, but the omission is supplied in the following year ; it was, as we have seen,¹ the manor of Ness. This was the last account of William fitz Alan (I) ; it was passed at Michaelmas 1159, and he died about six months afterwards, being succeeded in the shrievalty of Shropshire by Guy le Strange of Alveley. It is interesting to find that John and Guy le Strange were among the personages assembled round the death-bed of their illustrious comrade in arms ; a deed in the Salop Chartulary,² whereby he gave certain lands, *together with his body*, to Shrewsbury Abbey, is tested by four ecclesiastics and twelve well-known laymen, the two brothers heading the list of these last.

Great Ness, the Shropshire fief conferred by Henry II on John le Strange, lies eight miles to the north-west of Shrewsbury, a little to the north of the road to Oswestry, which is overlooked by the red sandstone rocks of Ness cliff. The stronghold still exhibits considerable, but not very perfect remains of ancient earthworks, which, owing to their being overgrown with under-wood, are not very easy to trace. It occupies the highest part of a short rocky range, 500 feet above sea-level, and 200 to 250 feet above the surrounding country, except on the north-east, where the high land continues. The entrenchments appear to have consisted of one ditch and two ramparts, cutting off the extreme north-west corner to the edge of the hill, and there are remains of outer entrenchments on the south-east, but no trace exists of the defences, which must have once enclosed the northern side.³ The position thus commands the direct road from Shrewsbury to North Wales, while it lies only two miles above Shrawardine, an important ford on the Severn, where a castle of the fitz Alans had been built to check forays from the direction of mid-Wales. The fief had originally been given by Henry to Cadwallader, brother of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales from 1137 to 1169. Cadwal-

¹ *Supra*, 24.

² No. 285. See Eyton, vii. 237.

³ Survey by E. A. Downman in B.M. Add. MSS. 37678.

lader, who was married to a sister of Gilbert, Earl of Clare, having quarrelled with his brother and been deprived of his lands in Wales, had taken refuge in England; the King made use of him when he invaded Wales, and the Shropshire Pipe Rolls show that in 1156 and 1157 the Welsh prince enjoyed possession of the manor of Ness. The campaign ended in a pacification with Owen Gwynedd, who restored his brother again to favour and the possession of his lands in Wales; there was, consequently, no longer any necessity for Cadwallader to accept the bounty of the English king, who resumed possession of Ness, and in the Pipe Roll for 1158 Cadwallader's name disappears, and in place thereof we have the following entry: '*Johanni Extraneo vij li. x^s prestito Regis per breve Regis.*' A fuller entry two years later runs: '*Johanni Extraneo vij li. x^s de prestito Regis in Nesse. Et eidem iv. li. in Chesewarda.*' Compare '*Testa de Nevill*,' quoted above,¹ which shows this valuation long continued. This means, as we have seen, that John had succeeded to Cheswardine in 1160 as heir to his brother Hamo. The returns of fiefs made in 1166, and put together during the reign of King John in the *Liber Niger* of the Exchequer, the earliest extant Feodary compiled for the use of the collectors of the King's Aids, shows that John held Ness by the service of one knight's fee, while Cheswardine constituted a half fee. Later, the two seem to have been only valued at one knight's fee,² but in the thirteenth century it was in most cases found impossible to exact the full service owed.³

It was after midsummer 1160 that John made the grant to Castleacre, quoted in the last chapter,⁴ in which he mentions his father Roland and his mother Matilda, and speaks of his brother Hamo as dead.

During the years 1155-60 large additions were made to the lands acquired by John le Strange, nearly if not quite all of them by subinfeudation from William fitz Alan (I). The *Liber Niger* shows that John had acquired before 1166, and was then holding two knights' fees in the barony of fitz Alan, though there is

¹ *Supra*, 24.

² *Testa de Nevill*, p. 56.

³ See Morris, *Welsh Wars of Edw. I*, 46-48, on the quota of service. ⁴ *Supra*, 5.

no evidence to show the exact dates at which they were given. These lands, which are often spoken of in contemporary documents as knights' fees of the *new feoffment*—*i.e.* made since the death of Henry I—comprised the following Shropshire manors: Middle,¹ which, as we shall see, was afterwards castellated; Ruyton-of-the-eleven-towns;² Wykey, now part of Ruyton, but at that time independent;³ Moreton;⁴ Maesbrook;⁵ Melverley;⁶ Acton-Scott;⁷ Abdon;⁸ Berrington;⁹ Glazeley;¹⁰ and Longnor.¹¹

The Pipe Roll for 11 Hen. II (1165), in addition to the usual entry respecting John le Strange as to Ness and Cheswardine, contains the following:

et Johanni Extraneo iiij li et ii s et vjd in Alweht.¹²

Like the other entries for the 11 Hen. II the payments are for three-quarters of a year only, as there had been a new Sheriff recently appointed; but I am at a loss to identify 'Alweht'; it can hardly be Alveley, as that manor had been granted to Guy le Strange, yet I know not what other place it can be. The entry does not recur in any of the succeeding years.

On the death of William fitz Alan (I), about Easter 1160 Guy le Strange had been appointed to succeed him as Sheriff of Shropshire, and further had the valuable and important custody of his barony during the long minority of his son.¹³ Guy held the shrievalty until 1165, when the Pipe Rolls show that the office was transferred to Geoffrey de Vere, probably because he had married Isabel de Say, widow of William fitz Alan, who had carried to her new husband, as her dower, nearly a third of the fitz Alan estates. On the death of de Vere in 1170 Guy le Strange was reinstated in the shrievalty, and continued to hold it for the rest of his life.

In the Red Book of the Exchequer¹⁴ John le Strange is returned as in debt to the Crown for the whole period, 1165–71, the result,

¹ Eyton, x. 65–66.

⁴ *Ibid.* x. 364.

⁷ *Ibid.* xi. 375–6.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* i. 211.

¹³ Eyton, iii. 126.

² *Ibid.* 113.

⁵ *Ibid.* x. 377.

⁸ *Ibid.* iv. 128.

¹¹ *Ibid.* vi. 49.

¹⁴ ii. cxx. (Rolls Series).

³ *Ibid.* xi. 23.

⁶ *Ibid.* x. 377.

⁹ *Ibid.* vi. 34.

¹² *Pipe Roll Soc.*, viii. 89–90.

no doubt, of his having to pay the expenses of border garri-sons on the Welsh March. The names of the two brothers, John and Guy, constantly appear in the Sheriff's accounts associated together, and there are entries of sums being remitted to them by the King, and of gifts of money being made to them as a reward for their services. Thus in the Pipe Roll of 14 Hen. II (1168) for Norfolk and Suffolk we have :

In perdona per breve Regis Johanni et Widoni Extraneis xl^s et quietum est. And in the same year they have pardon for 20s., 20s., and 16s. 8d. in Norfolk,¹ as well as an allowance in the Shropshire account of £70 out of the lands of William fitz Alan (II), then in the custody of Guy.² From the Staffordshire Pipe Roll for the following year, 1169, it appears that the King had granted to John le Strange out of the farm of Trentham pasture worth 8s. 8d. a year.³ In 1171 the Sheriff of Staffordshire accounts to Guy and John for £20 spent by them in payment to men serving in the Welsh Marches.

In estimating the value of the above grants and expenses, it must be borne in mind that the purchasing power of money in the twelfth century was at least forty-five times as much as it is at the beginning of the twentieth—*i.e.* one shilling then would be the equivalent of £2 5s. now, and one penny of 3s. 9d.

Advancing years, and the piety or superstition of the age, had the usual effect of inducing the owner of numerous fiefs to make liberal eleemosynary grants. Two made by John le Strange out of his Norfolk inheritance have already been mentioned, *viz.* his grant of six acres of land at Litcham to the monks of Castle-acre,⁴ and that of his maternal fief of Edgefield to Binham Priory.⁵ His donations in Shropshire were nearly, if not quite all of them, made to the Augustinian Abbey of Haughmond, three miles east of Shrewsbury, which had been founded and endowed by his great friend, William fitz Alan (I). Before the year 1172 John had made three grants to that abbey—*viz.* (1) the advowson of the church of Cheswardine, of which Eyton has printed the original

¹ *Pipe Roll Soc.*, xii. 19.

² *Ibid.* xii. 124.

³ *Ibid.* xiii. 68.

⁴ *Supra*, i. p. 5.

⁵ *Supra*, i. p. 11.

grant from the Haughmond Chartulary; ¹ (2) the mill of Middle; ² and (3) the mill of Ruyton; ³ these three grants were all included in a Bull of Confirmation by Pope Alexander III, dated May 14, 1172. The Haughmond Chartulary, quoted by Eyton, ⁴ records that the advowson of the church of St. Mary at Hunstanton was also given to the same Shropshire Abbey, the grant being attested by the abbots of Wigmore and Buildwas, and by John le Strange, a canon; it was confirmed by Henry II, along with many other grants, in a charter passed by that king at Shrewsbury towards the close of the year 1176. ⁵ Eyton cites a deed ⁶ made by William fitz Alan (II) on his coming of age, which is particularly useful as establishing the relationship of several le Stranges at this period, inasmuch as it is tested by no less than five members of the family; it is a grant to Buildwas Abbey, of about 1175, confirming a previous donation made by the grantor's father; among the witnesses are *John le Strange and John his son; Wido le Strange and Wido and Hamo his sons*. A fine seal, with the effigy of a knight on horseback, of which Eyton gives an engraving, is attached to this document. ⁷

The last eleemosynary grant of John le Strange which has come down to us is one giving half a virgate in Webscott, a member of the manor of Middle, to Haughmond Abbey. ⁸ It is of especial importance, as being the only one in which he mentions the name of his wife. The offering is stated to be for the soul of *Hawise*, the grantor's wife; it was attested by William son of William fitz Alan, Guy my brother, Ralph his son, Hugh le Strange and others. Eyton writes ⁹:

It is probable that it was made on the death of his said wife, which will have shortly preceded his own death. The latter event took place in 1177-78. At Michaelmas 1178 Guy le Strange, Sheriff of Shropshire, had in hand the reputed issues of Ness and Cheswardine, obviously because his brother's son had not obtained livery, but before Michaelmas 1179 he had handed over the sum to 'John son of John le Strange.'

¹ Eyton, x. 29, fo. 43 of Chartulary.

² *Ibid.* x. 66.

³ *Ibid.* x. 113.

⁴ *Ibid.* x. 266, fo. 121 of Chartulary.

⁵ Harl. MSS. 2188, fo. 123.

⁶ Eyton, vii. 245.

⁷ Harl. Charter 50, A, 2.

⁸ Original deed at Trentham, and Lilleshall Chartulary, ff. 55 and 93.

⁹ Eyton, x. 266.

The following entries in the Red Book of the Exchequer relate to John le Strange's Norfolk fiefs; they are from the Norfolk Inquisitions for scutage of 1166-70, and must belong to the year 1166, as the King embarked at Southampton for Normandy in March of that year, and did not return for four years:

Hæc est inquisitio de manerio Comitis Arundeliæ in Snetesham, s[cilicet] quod homines sui dederunt postquam dominus noster Rex Anglorum extreme transfretavit in Normanniam, quando Comes perexit ad servandas les Marches de Wales pluribus vicibus . . .¹

Postquam dominus Rex transfretavit, dederunt homines Johannis Extranei de Hunestanestunia et de Ringstadia lx^s Comiti Arundeliæ de feodo trium militum.²

Veredictum hominum de Mileham. Quando villa cecidit in custodia Johannis Extranei et Radulphi fratris sui non fuerunt in prædicta villa præter xvj carucas, et nunc, testimonio eorum, sunt in villa xxviij. Super hoc dicunt homines villæ quod de hominibus de novo feodatis et de boscho, et aliis rebus in custodia Johannis Extranei et Radulphi fratris ejus villa emendata est plusquam xl marcis argenti. Hoc [autem] testificant omnes homines villæ super sacramentum suum. Super hoc dicunt homines ejusdem villæ dederunt domino suo Johanni Extraneo jx libras de auxilio, gratis, in uno anno, et in altero anno xlv s gratis.³

Veredictum militum Johannis Extranei de donis suis quæ dederunt domino suo Johanni, postquam dominus Rex novissime transfretavit in Normanniam. Herbertus xxx solidos. [Brien Canis] iij marcas et dimidiam. Willelmus de Pagrave dedit Gaufredo de Ver i m. ad exercitum de Sparle.⁴

GUY LE STRANGE, OF ALVELEY.

I have already had frequent occasion to mention Guy (Eudo or Wido), the third son of Roland and Matilda le Strange, as associated with his brothers in attesting charters, as having been enfeoffed by the King, in or before 1155, in the manor of Alveley, as having inherited the manor of Osbaston from his brother Hamo in 1160, and as having been appointed Sheriff of Shropshire on the death of William fitz Alan (I), of whose son and his extensive estates he had the wardship and custody. In this latter capacity Guy was Custos or Warden of Oswestry, which belonged to the fitz Alans, the most advanced post on the north-west front of the Welsh March, and during the many and prolonged absences of the King at his continental possessions was responsible for the

¹ *Rolls Series* 99, vol. ii. p. cclxvii.

² *Ibid.* p. cclxxix., No. 51.

³ *Ibid.* p. cclxix.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. cclxxx., No. 56.

peace and safety of that debatable land. In September 1165 we find Guy charging the Crown with '103 sol: et 9d. in liberatione cc. servientium apud Blancmoster (Oswestry)'; these were stipendiary soldiers, probably from Henry's continental possessions;¹ as Sheriff, Guy was usually keeper of the two royal castles of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, and had to maintain them for their threefold use as garrison, prison, and royal residence. The *Liber Niger* shows that Guy held Alveley by service of half a knight. He had a further tenure of half a knight's fee of *new feoffment* granted to him by William fitz Alan (I) at Stretton-upon-Avon in Warwickshire.

An undated charter in the British Museum² shows that R., abbot of Haughmond, confirmed to Peter le Strange the mill of Stretton-upon-Avon on the same tenure as his father Hamo le Strange held it from the abbot's predecessor Alured, viz. 20s. annual rent. It is attested by William le Strange. Hamon, one of the sons of Guy of Alveley, died *v.p.* (*i.e.* in or before 1179), and Guy was succeeded by his daughters as co-heiresses; consequently Peter, if the son of Hamon, must also have died in his grandfather's lifetime.

In 1165 Henry unsuccessfully invaded Wales with a large army, and barbarously hanged certain hostages who had been placed in his hands; the charges for the maintenance of these hostages are entered in Guy's account as Sheriff for the quarter ending at Christmas 1164, and his successor in office, Geoffrey de Vere, charged for them up to about April 1165, after which time no further mention is made of these unfortunate men.

The Shropshire Pipe Roll, 18 Hen. II, has an entry made by Guy le Strange as Sheriff, wherein he renders his account for 400 hogs sent to Ireland, £31 15s. 2d., 60 axes, and 10s. 6d. by the King's writ. These supplies were for Henry's invasion of Ireland in October 1171.

In the year 1173 the King's eldest son Henry who, after his coronation on June 14, 1170, was styled by chroniclers 'the young King,' and often Henry III, having rebelled with his brother

¹ *Liber Niger*, 144, 147.

² B.M. III., C. 29.

Geoffrey and Richard against their father, were compelled to flee to the Court of the King of France ; their cause had been espoused by Robert de Beaumont, Earl of Leicester, amongst others, and Guy le Strange had to victual and defend the castles of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury ; he had the King's warrant of £42 for livery of ten knights, who were to be with him for this purpose. The Earl of Leicester was captured on October 16, and the rebellion was crushed. Guy had raised a considerable contingent on behalf of the Crown for what he describes in his accounts as the '*army of Leicester*,'¹ and he served personally in the summer of 1173 at the storming and capture of the town of Leicester.² The King afterwards made a progress through the lately disturbed counties in order to exact fines by way of punishment from those who had been guilty of rebellion or trespass—'*Assiza super terras eorum qui recesserunt*.' Guy's personal attendance on the King is proved by his having attested a royal charter dated at Bridgnorth, c. January 1176,³ and another at Shrewsbury about the same time.⁴ His trust as Custos of the Honour of fitz Alan had come to an end, as is shown by his accounts as Sheriff, rendered at Michaelmas 1175 ; he had received the issues for only three-quarters of the preceding year, so the heir, William fitz Alan (II), must have come of age about midsummer.⁵

Guy le Strange appears to have played a very useful part as a faithful official in serving Henry II in his great need during the feudal revolt of 1173-4, the most formidable opposition in England which the King ever had to face. Guy had ceased to be Sheriff of Shropshire about Christmas 1164, but was reappointed at Michaelmas 1170, as one of the trustworthy royal servants put in office after the '*Inquest of Sheriffs*' of 1170 had revealed the faithlessness of many of the 'baronial Sheriffs, and had brought about their removal.'⁶ As some requital for these services Guy received from the King a grant of the manor of Weston-under-Redcastle, Warwickshire, worth 100s. a year, to be held with Alveley

¹ Pipe Roll, 19 Hen. II.

² Eyton, i. 263.

³ *Monasticon*, v. 73, note 3 ; Eyton's *Itinerary of Hen. II.*, p. 198.

⁴ Haughmond Chartulary at Sundorne Castle.

⁵ Eyton iii. 127.

⁶ *P.R.O. List of Sheriffs*, p. 117.

by the service of half a knight's fee each : an enrolment of the royal charter passed on this occasion is preserved at the Record Office.¹

The last public occasion at which Eyton can find mention of the presence of Guy le Strange was at the Great Court and Council which was held by Henry II at Northampton in January 1177, at which the whole of England was divided, for judicial purposes, into six districts, nearly corresponding with the judges' circuits of the present day ; Guy's presence is shown by his attestation of a general charter of confirmation, expedited there by the King, to Thomas Noel, who had married Guy's eldest daughter Margaret.² Guy attested many other charters at various times, mostly in conjunction with his brother John. Like that brother he made grants to Haughmond Abbey. Eyton mentions two.³ ' The first, in which his wife Mary joined, was of his mill at Stretton-upon-Avon, and also of his mill at Alveley ' ; among the witnesses are : ' Willhelmus filius Willhelmi filii Alani, Johannes Extraneus, et Johannes et Hamo filii ejus, Adam filius Hamonis Extranei ' ; this was confirmed by Pope Alexander in his Bull of May 14, 1172, cited on p. 35.⁴ The other grant was of the mill of Osbaston, near Knockin. Mr. John Higginson, M.R.C.V.S., of The Hollies, Knockin, who has allowed me to see a MS. history of that parish which he has compiled, states that this mill was situated on Morton brook, and that some remains of it can still be traced where the bridge now stands.

An undated charter in the Castleacre Register (fo. 90), concerning an ' exchange between the monasteries of Castleacre and Westacre, is witnessed by *Eudone Extraneo* ' and ' *Rogero filio suo* ' ; if this be Guy of Alveley, it records a son of his unknown to Eyton,⁵ and Roger, like his brothers Guy and Hamo, must have died during his father's lifetime. Another charter, quoted by Carthew from the same folio of the Castleacre Register, is tested by ' *Domino Rogero Extraneo*. '

The following entry in the Pipe Rolls of 24 Hen. II (1178-9) refers to Guy of Alveley :

¹ Cartæ Antiquæ, Roll EE, No. 13.

² Dodsworth's MSS. vol. 130, fo. 119b.

³ Eyton, iii. 128.

⁴ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 6, and Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 11.

⁵ Carthew, i. 129.

Guido Extraneus reddit compotum de vij l. de veteri firma tertii anni que remanserunt super terram que fuit Ione de Powis . . . et Guidoni Extraneo c. et x^s in Aluedealea.¹

Guy did not long survive his elder brother John, with whom he had been so closely associated through life ; John, as we have seen, died before Michaelmas 1178, and Guy must have followed him in little more than a year. Eyton shows² that Guy's last account as Sheriff was rendered at Michaelmas 1179, and that at the date of the next account the manor of Alveley had been '*in manu Regis*' for the preceding fiscal year, till livery should be given to the heir ; this did not take place until Michaelmas 1182. The Pipe Roll of the next year shows that the Sheriff, in accounting for '*terris datis*' in Alveley, had paid 110s. to Ralph son of Guy le Strange.³ Eyton thinks⁴ that Mary, widow of Guy, cannot have been the mother of all his children, as she had two other husbands before she married Guy, and was still living in 1186, being then only forty years of age. Part of her dower was derived from North Runcton in Norfolk, which she held of the fief of Warren of Wormegay : this must have been from one of her previous husbands, as Guy le Strange held no lands there in 1165.⁵ Mention has already been made of three, if not four, sons of Guy, who have appeared as attesting witnesses, viz. Ralph, Guy, Hamon, and perhaps Roger. The following entry in the Pipe Roll of 23 Hen. II (1177) probably refers to Hamon son of Guy of Alveley : ⁶

Hamo Extraneus reddit compotum de v. marcis quia non habuit quem plegiavit.

Guy and Hamon must have died two or three years before their father, though we have seen that they were living and attested fitz Alan's grant to Buildwas, c. 1175. Besides these sons Guy le Strange left three daughters, Margaret, Joan or Juliana, and Matilda, who eventually became co-heiresses to their brother Ralph.

For some unexplained reason Ralph was obliged to pay to

¹ *Pipe Roll Soc.* xxvii. p. 83.

³ Rot. Pip. 28 Hen. II, Salop.

⁵ *Liber Niger*, p. 288.

² iii. 128.

⁴ iii. 129.

⁶ *Pipe Roll Soc.* xxvi. 32.

the King a fine of 15 marks, accounted for by the Sheriff in 1190.¹ During his short life—he can hardly have been more than thirty-four at his death—he followed the example of his father in making charitable donations. For the relief of poor wayfarers he founded the Hospital of the Holy Trinity at Bridgnorth, placed close to the bridge over the Severn, by which all travellers from the eastward must approach, and he endowed it with $3\frac{1}{2}$ virgates of land in Alveley.² His memory as founder was annually commemorated for more than 300 years, for the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 records that, on the anniversary of Ralph le Strange as founder of this hospital, the abbot distributed a sum of 16s. 8d. to the poor. In the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery is preserved the latten matrix, with plain handle on the back pierced with a hole, of a round seal $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, belonging to this hospital; it is of early thirteenth-century date, having for device a seated representation of the Holy Trinity, with panelled sideshafts but no canopy; it bears the legend: ‘S. Henricus: ffranceys: magister: ospitalis: t: sanct: Sca (?): trinitatis: de: bregenorth.’³ The Haughmond Chartulary shows that Ralph gave the right of patronage of the chapel of Knockin, which had probably been founded by him, to the abbey of Haughmond. The grant is witnessed by William fitz Alan, John le Strange, and William le Strange. Some remains of Ralph le Strange’s chapel are still to be seen in the present church. Mr. D. H. S. Cranage, in his ‘Churches of Shropshire,’⁴ says:

Seeing a fair amount of late Norman work in the present building, we may fairly conclude that the original building remains to some extent. The chapel consisted of at least chancel, nave, and north aisle of 4 bays. . . . There are good capitals, with early foliage, and a bold row of zigzags.

During the years 1194 and 1195 Ralph was employed in the King’s service with his cousin John le Strange (II) of Ness as Castellans of Carreghova, near Llanymynech, south of Oswestry, in the modern county of Denbigh, for the protection of some silver mines which were worked for the Crown under the superintendence of one Joseph, a clerk of Archbishop Hubert, who was acting as

¹ Pipe Roll, 2 Ric. I.

² *Rot. Hundred*, pp. 73 and 102.

³ *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, 2nd Series, xv. 17.

⁴ P. 796.

Viceroy of England during Richard's absence abroad. The expenses of working are accounted for in the Pipe Rolls of 1194-5; the experiment proving unprofitable was ultimately abandoned. An entry in the Plea Rolls¹ shows that on May 12, 1195, excuse was made for the non-appearance of John le Strange in a suit to which he was a party, on the ground that he was certified to be in the King's service in place of Ralph le Strange, who was sick; the latter must have died about midsummer 1195, as at Michaelmas the King's Escheator had received three months' issues of the manors of Alveley and Weston, then in the King's hands.² His estates were divided among his three sisters; Margaret was wife of Thomas Noel, a man of considerable importance in Staffordshire, of which county he was Sheriff from 1184 to 1189; Juliana, or Joan, who was apparently the second sister, married Richard de Wappenbury, who held five fees of old feoffment in Warwickshire under the barony of Mowbray; and the youngest sister, Matilda, married a Welshman, Gruffydd de Sutton, son of Gervase Coch (Gervase is probably the Welsh Iorwerth). It seems that their cousin, John le Strange (II) of Ness, put in a claim to the succession of Knockin as the right heir of Hamo, the original feoffee thereof; the matter was, however, arranged amicably, for, as Eyton judiciously points out,³ it was 'evident that a border fortress and estate was recognized as no fit matter of coparcenary among females.' Within three years of their succession the three co-heiresses, together with their husbands, came to an arrangement for surrendering Knockin to John le Strange, and receiving a valuable consideration in return. The Fines by which this transfer was effected are interesting legal documents, but as they are printed in full by Eyton⁴ I do not give them here. Margery Noel received for her third share of Knockin all John's lands of Myxle (Mixer) and Bradnop in Staffordshire, or in exchange land to the value of 30 solidates from his lands in Norfolk.⁵ Juliana de Wappenbury got 20 solidates of land in Gesewde, or in exchange 30 solidates

¹ *Placita incerti temporis Regis Johannis*, No. 60. Internal evidence proves it to be a roll of Easter Term, 6 Ric. I; Eyton, iii. 130*n*.

² Eyton, iii. 130.

³ iii. 131.

⁴ x. 367; Feet of Fines, 8 and 9 Ric. I., Salop, P.R.O., Case 193, File No. 1.

⁵ *C. Ch. R.*, Hen. III, vol. i. 36.

in Norfolk ; while Matilda de Sutton accepted, in exchange for her third share of Knockin, John's feoffment in the whole vill of Dovaston and Kinaston.¹ It is worth noticing that the husbands of these three ladies had already, in the year 1196, fined 200 marks with the King, 'for having all the land which was before Ralph le Strange's, together with the fortress (*municione*) which is called Cnukin.'² The amount thus paid to the King, equivalent to about £6000 nowadays, gives some measure of the value of Ralph le Strange's estate. It must be remembered that, at this period and for more than three centuries after it, Knockin formed part of Wales and not of England ; perhaps it would be more correct to say that it then belonged to neither, but was in the Welsh March. It was not until 1535 that Oswestry, Whittington, Ellesmere, and Knockin were severed from Wales and annexed to England (Salop) by Act of Parliament. It would be interesting, but not easy, to work out the status of the le Strange lands in the March, whether they were independent lordships, or part of the Arundel fief of Oswestry. In all probability the original holdings were sub-infeudations, subject to the ordinary services of feudal tenure, but gradually accreted large additions from the Welshry, which under the 'custom of the March,' tended towards practical independence of English law, and even of royal authority.

RALPH LE STRANGE OF LITTLE ERCALL.

It only remains now to deal with Ralph, the fourth son of Roland le Strange and Matilda le Brun. We have seen³ that he attested, c. 1160, his brother John's charter to Castleacre, in which mention is made of the names of their father and mother ; also that he was the first witness to John's grant of Edgefield to Binham Priory, made before 1174.⁴ On the death of Hamo le Strange in 1160, although his eldest brother John was undoubtedly his heir-at-law, Ralph, the youngest of the four brothers, was allowed to succeed to Little Er call, and he consequently appears in the *Liber Niger*⁵ as holding half a knight's fee of *new feoffment*

¹ Rot. Fines, 9 Ric. I, Salop.

² Rot. Pip., 8, 9, 10, Ric. I.

³ *Supra*, 5.

⁴ *Ibid.* 12.

⁵ i. 144.

immediately under fitz Alan.¹ A similar entry appears also in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*. I have already mentioned² the charter by which William fitz Alan confirmed to Haughmond Abbey the manor of Nagington, a member of Little Erccall: this grant was subsequently confirmed by Ralph as heir of his brother Hamon.³ Eyton has called attention to the importance of keeping distinct what little is known of the different individuals who bore the name of Ralph le Strange during the last half of the twelfth century. Two I have already distinguished, Ralph of Erccall, the youngest brother of John (I), dead in 1194, from his nephew Ralph, son of Guy of Alveley, *ob.* 1195. The third is Ralph of Litcham, in Norfolk, of whom I shall have something to say later, but may mention here that considerable confusion arises because the elder branch of the le Stranges, that of Hunstanton and Ness, also possessed a considerable estate in Litcham, and it even appears that Ralph of Erccall must have held some interest there, as, after his death, his daughter and co-heir Emma impleaded her sister Maud for certain messuages in Litcham and Ringstead.⁴

The following deed, quoted by Eyton from the Haughmond Chartulary⁵ as passed between 1182 and 1194, confirms so much of the early genealogy of the family that it is worth reproducing in full:

Omnibus sancte Dei ecclesie filiis tam presentibus quam futuris Radulphus Extraneus Salutem. Notum sit omnibus vobis me concessisse et dedisse et presenti carta confirmasse Deo et ecclesie Sancti Johannis Evangeliste de Hagmon et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus in perpetuam elemosinam, pro salute anime mee et patris mei et matris et Johannis fratris mei, qui feudum mihi dedit, et filii mei Rolandi, omniumque antecessorum meorum et successorum meorum, molen-dinum de Hunstanston, quod est de hereditate patris mei, cum sede sua et omnibus pertinentiis suis, libere et quiete de me et heredibus meis ab omnibus terrenis consuetudinibus et exactionibus, tenendum et habendum in perpetuum. Hiis testibus, Widone de Thichwelle, Willielmo de Bruna,⁶ Radulpho, Widone de Schawburia, Roberto fratre ejus, Elia fratre Jone sacerdotis, &c.

It is evident from the above that Ralph's son Roland had predeceased his father; that Ralph had been enfeoffed in some

¹ Eyton, viii. 8.

² *Supra*, 29.

³ Eyton, viii. 9.

⁴ Blomefield, ix. 149.

⁵ Eyton, viii. 10.

⁶ Rector of Hunstanton church when John gave the advowson to Haughmond in 1178.

land at Hunstanton by his brother John (I); and that after John's death (1178) Ralph granted to Haughmond Abbey one of the two mills which, as we saw in Chapter I, Roland le Strange had inherited from his father-in-law, Ralph fitz Herluin. The verdict of the Mileham jury, cited when dealing with John (I),¹ shows that that manor was then in the custody of the two brothers. There is a second entry to the same effect in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*; ² also an earlier entry in the same book ³ concerning Ralph le Strange, but whether it relates to Ralph of Ercall or Ralph of Litcham is as uncertain as is the barony cited in the Exchequer accounts. The entry runs as follows:

Baroniæ incertæ.

Radulphus Extraneus dedit Hugoni de Creissio de feudo duorum militum, quod tenet de eo, de dote suæ uxoris x marcas ad scutagium; et de relefio, c^s dedit dominæ Alæ Willelmus de Watton et illa Comiti de Warennæ.

Ralph of Ercall was dead in June 1194, and was succeeded by two daughters, the elder of whom, Matilda, married Fulk de Oirri, of Gedney, in Lincolnshire, and the younger, Emma, was the wife of Philip de Burnham. A long litigation, lasting from 1194 to 1217, ensued as to their respective shares of Ralph's inheritance both in Norfolk and Shropshire; the details are given by Eyton ⁴ from the Plea and other Rolls, but, for genealogical purposes, they are scarcely worth reproducing here. One of the main points of interest I have already mentioned, viz. that Ralph of Ercall possessed land in Litcham; and another is that John le Strange (II) seems to have established his rights as mesne lord at Ercall as heir to his uncle Hamo, in spite of the fact that his father had never insisted on these rights.

MATILDA LE STRANGE.

In his valuable monograph on Carrow Abbey, near Norwich, issued at the sole cost of the late Mr. J. J. Colman, Mr. Walter Rye gives the name of Matilda le Strange as the first prioress of whom he has been able to find mention; she occurs from 1198

¹ *Supra*, 36.

³ *Ibid.* cclxxix.

² ii. cclxxx.

⁴ viii. 10-12.

to 1222.¹ Unfortunately nothing is recorded to show who she was ; she might have been a daughter of John (II), of whose family we only know the name of one daughter, viz., Margery, who married Ralph de Pichford ; but it seems rather unlikely that a baron living on the Shropshire March would have sent a daughter to a priory so far off as Norwich ; more probably Matilda was one of the Litcham or Fransham le Stranges. There must have been many daughters in the pedigree whose names have not come down to us because they were not heiresses, or did not make brilliant marriages.

Blomefield says ² that Ralph le Strange, fourth son of Roland, held the lordship of East Winch, and gave the rectory of the church thereof to Carrow Priory ; Mr. Rye mentions this, and also that the donor had a daughter Matilda, who married Fulk de Oirri ; on this he founds a conjecture that she was aunt to Matilda le Strange, the prioress of Carrow ; I am unable to accept this. Matilda, the daughter of Ralph, had, as far as is known, only one brother, Roland, who died without issue during his father's lifetime ; and her only sister, as I have mentioned above,³ married Philip de Burnham.

LE STRANGE OF LITCHAM.

That a considerable degree of confusion should exist between the le Stranges of Hunstanton and Ness, and those of Litcham, is not to be wondered at, considering that, in the latter half of the twelfth century, both held under Fitz Alan, both had an interest in Litcham, and that the name of Ralph was used by both families. Whether any, and if any, what degree of relationship existed between them, has been a puzzle which even genealogists as painstaking as Eyton and Carthew have been unable to solve. Indeed, not much has been added to what was known to Blomefield, or rather Parkin, his continuator, who, writing in 1775,⁴ says that the manor of Netherhall in Litcham was granted by Alan fitz Flaald to Sewald, from whom John le Strange

¹ *Carrow Abbey*, by W. Rye (1889), p. 38.

² *Supra*, p. 45.

³ Blomefield, ix. 149.

⁴ x. 9.

descended ; that in the 55th of Henry III he held a fee here and impleaded the rector for keeping the evidences of his lordship from him, but released the action by deed dated at Knockin, which shows that this family was related to that of Knockin ; and, further, that by Isabella his wife he had two sons, John and Ralph, whereof the elder, John, married Clementia, relict of Jordan de Sackville, and daughter of Sir William de Burgh.

Let us see how much of this will stand the test of strict proof, of which Blomefield, of course, gives none, and even Eyton relegates his account of these le Stranges to two notes,¹ and, contrary to his usual custom, does not give his authorities. He does, however, in another place² quote a deed from the Haughmond Chartulary,³ whereby John le Strange (II), between 1178 and 1180, confirmed half a virgate in Webblescowe to Haughmond Abbey. The second and third witnesses to this are 'Wido le Strange' (clearly Guy of Alveley), 'and Ralph le Strange of Lucheham.' It is a somewhat suspicious circumstance that, in a copy of this deed in the British Museum,⁴ these two witnesses are described as 'Wido my brother and Ralph his son,' i.e. *not* Ralph of Litcham. The confusion as to the two Ralphs is not confined only to the twentieth century.

Eyton's note as to the descent of le Strange of Litcham is as follows :⁵

Siward, living in Henry I's time, was succeeded by a son Ralph, and Ralph by a son Durandus, living about 1155-60. Durandus le Strange, by his wife Agnes, had a son Ralph, who was also called le Strange, and was living from 1180 to 1217. John le Strange, son of Ralph, occurs from 1240 to 1292. He had by his wife Isabella two sons, John and Ralph. John, the elder son, died May 31, 1305, without issue. Ralph his brother and heir was living in 1310.

Durannus le Strange was one of the witnesses to the grant of John le Strange (I) to Castleacre, in which the latter mentioned his father Roland and his mother Matilda, the date of which, as we have seen,⁶ is after midsummer 1160. He appears as witness to a confirmation of a grant by William de Lisewis of land at Gately ;⁷ and Carthew quotes from the Castleacre Chartulary⁸

¹ viii. 9n. ; x. 260n.

⁴ Harl. MSS. 2188, fo. 123.

⁷ Carthew, i. 133.

² *Ibid.* x. 76.

⁵ x. 260.

⁸ *Ibid.* i. 126.

³ fo. 225.

⁶ *Supra*, 5.

a grant of rents in Wesenham by Durannus himself, which is attested by '*Radulfo filio Duranni, Prudentia matre ejus.*' This proves that Eyton was mistaken in saying that the name of the wife of Durannus was Agnes : Agnes was the wife of his son Ralph, and survived her husband, as is shown by a charter quoted by Eyton,¹ which describes her as '*Agnes uxor Radulphi Extranei de Lutcham jam defuncti.*'

This branch of the family were possessed of very considerable property in Norfolk ; they were lords of the two Hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhow, and their grants show that they held land in the adjoining parishes of Litcham, Mileham, Stanfield, Titteshall, Wellingham, Sutton, Bittering, and Wesenham.

Blomefield, in his account of Wellingham,² says that Alan fitz Flaald granted that manor, which was part of his Honour of Mileham, with the Hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhow, to Seward, ancestor of a family who assumed the name of le Strange ; and that William, son of Alan, by deed sans date, confirmed to Durand, son of Ralph, son of Seward, the land of Wellingham, Bittering, and Sutton, for the payment of 8s. per annum, three of the attesting witnesses being John, Hamo, and Guy Extraneus. Blomefield does not say where he saw this charter, but it must have been passed before Michaelmas 1160 when Hamo, brother of John (I), died.

Several generations of the pedigree of the Litcham le Stranges are proved by the inquisition on the death of John le Strange (II) ³ of Litcham in 1305. The jurors say that he died on May 21 of that year, leaving as heir his brother Ralph, then fifty years old ; that John and his wife Clementia held jointly certain lands in Wellingham, with the Hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhow of the heir of Richard fitz Alan, as well as certain rents in Fransham ; that they had been enfeoffed of the two Hundreds by John le Strange (I) in the year 1294, and held them in common until the death of John on May 21 last ; that John his father had acquired them from an ancestor named Durandus le Strange, who, before time of legal memory, had acquired them from Flandus, son of

¹ Eyton, i. 125.

² x. 73.

³ P.R.O. Chancery Inq., Edw. I, File 118, No. 13.

Alan, formerly lord of Mileham, to be held of him by service of £6 a year; that the said Hundreds descended by hereditary succession from Durandus to his son and heir Ralph; from this Ralph to another Ralph as his son and heir; and from the last-named Ralph to John le Strange, who had enfeoffed John and Clementia. The Fine Rolls contain an order to the King's Escheator, dated June 24, 1305, to take into the King's hands the lands late of John le Straunge of *Lutham*, deceased, tenant by knight service of the heir of Richard fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, a minor.¹

An undated charter in the Hunstanton Muniment Room² of Thomas de Aleby, granting fifteen acres of land in Fransham to William de Stuteville, is attested by *Johanne Extraneo de Luxham*. This must have been John the husband of Isabella and son of Ralph, as William de Stuteville died in 1259. Another undated grant to William de Stuteville exists at Hunstanton,³ and is witnessed by Ralph and Roger le Strange. This Ralph, if one of the Litcham family, must have been the father of John who married Isabella. There are several undated charters quoted by Carthew from the Castleacre Chartulary,⁴ witnessed by '*Radulpho Extraneo*,' who was probably the son or the grandson of Durannus of Litcham, as the Hunstanton Ralphs, brothers of John (I) and John (II), only occur during the twelfth century, while their Litcham namesakes are considerably later. Of these charters the only one to which an approximate date can be assigned is one tested by '*Domino Rogero Extraneo*,' and '*Domino Radulpho Extraneo*,' being an exchange between Robert, Prior of Castleacre, and Willelmus filius Sewardi. Robert Alanson was prior there about the year 1220.

The following entries in the Rolls of the period probably relate to the Litcham family. In the 1st year of King John (1199-1200) Ralph le Estrange was attorney for William fitz Alan in a Suffolk suit of *mort d'ancestre* against the abbot of St. Edmund's, but Ralph failed to appear or to excuse himself.⁵ On October 30, 1217, Henry III wrote to the Sheriff of Norfolk that

¹ *Cal. of Fine Rolls*, i. 522.

² [N.K.I.]

³ [N.A.I.]

⁴ Carthew, i. 126-30.

⁵ *Rot. Cur. Regis*, edited by Sir F. Palgrave, ii. 38.

Ralph le Strange has returned to our fealty and service; he is to have seisin of all lands in your Bailiwick which he had on the day when he departed from the fealty and service of King John our father.¹

This shows that Ralph had sided with the barons against the King. I conclude that this Ralph was the son of Durannus and the husband of Agnes. On March 20, and April 8, 1225, there are two writs stating that the King has given respite of knight-hood to Ralph le Strange until Michaelmas next.² These I take to refer to Ralph, son of the previous Ralph, and grandson of Durannus. An undated grant of land in Weasenham by Adam, son of Alan de Wesenhamtorpe, to Roger de Freville of Wellingham, has for its first witness '*Radulpho Extraneo*'; this may be either the son or grandson of Durannus.³

The Hundred Rolls contain inquiries concerning the Hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhow taken in 3 Edw. I (1274-75). As to Launditch, the jurors say that it is in the hand of John le Strange of Litcham, by gift of the ancestors of John fitz Alan of Mileham, who held the said Hundred which had belonged to the manor of Mileham since the Conquest, and that John le Strange paid therefrom '*ad albam firmam*' 23s. 4d., and that beyond that the said Hundred was worth 40s. They further said that John le Strange claimed to have the royal Liberties, such as assize of bread and ale, and other things which belong to the Crown in Litcham, by gift of the ancestors of John fitz Alan, who now is heir of the manor of Mileham and in the King's custody. Also that John le Strange, Lord of Litcham, claims to have the said liberties and view of frank pledge therein, since at the time of the Conquest it was a member of Mileham.⁴ As to the Hundred of South Greenhow, the jurors say that it is also in the hand of John le Strange, and has been for many years back; that it renders yearly to the King 24s. 4d., and is worth five marks a year.⁵

By a Fine, dated February 16, 6 Edw. I. (1278), John, son of John le Strange of Litcham, granted to John, son of Ralph le Strange of Litcham, certain lands, rents, &c., in Wellingham and Weasenham for the life of John son of Ralph at a rose

¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*, 1204-24, i. 338b.

² *Ibid.* ii. 71b, and 26b.

³ *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, Report on Lord Middleton's papers, p. 50.

⁴ *Rot. Hundr.*, Hen. III. and Edw. I, i. 434.

⁵ *Ibid.* i. 517b.

rent.¹ On October 13 of the same year Richard de Perers and Joan his wife granted a messuage and certain lands in Longham to John le Strange and Isabella his wife for the rent of a clove of gillyflower, receiving as consideration a sparrow-hawk.² By a Fine of July 8, 1285, Richard le Bule of Snoring and John le Strange of Litcham granted the advowson of the church of Testerton to Henry de Wirham and Richard le Rus, for which they paid a soar—sparrow-hawk; and by another Fine of the same date the two last named granted to Richard le Bule and John son of John le Strange of Litcham the advowson of Little Snoring for the same consideration—in fact, the two livings were simply exchanged.³ John son of John le Strange granted by Fine of May 12, 1286, to Richard Bule that when the church of Little Snoring should fall vacant, Richard or his heirs should present to it alternately with John and his heirs for ever, Richard to have the next presentation.⁴ On October 27 of the same year John son of John le Strange called Robert de Tateshall to warrant for the custody of William, son and heir of William de Gerners, because William held of him by knight service. John quitclaimed to Robert for £10 sterling.⁵

A Fine of April 24, 1289,⁶ shows that John de Stonham and Roger de Necton granted to John son of John le Strange and Clementia his wife a messuage and $31\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in Little Snoring, together with two serfs (*nativi*) and their issue (*cum tota sequela sua*) for the consideration of one sparrow-hawk. By a Fine, dated November 3, 1292, John son of Ralph le Strange of Litcham and Isabella his wife granted the following lands and tenements to John de Walsham, parson of the church of Little Snoring, and Richard de Sutton, with reverter to the grantor's son John and Isabella his wife; viz. one messuage and 140 acres of land, a mill, 15 acres of meadow, 15 of marsh, 5 of heath, and 29s. $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ of rent, in Litcham, Mileham, Titteshall, Stanfield, and Little Bittering.⁷

¹ P.R.O. Feet of Fines, Case 159, File 107, No. 115.

² *Ibid.*, Case 139, File 108, No. 138.

³ *Ibid.*, Case 160, File 113, Nos. 325 and 326.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Case 160, File 114, No. 356.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Case 160, File 115, No. 496.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 17 Edw. I, No. 542, dorse.

⁷ P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 20 Edw. I, Case 160, File 116, No. 619, dorse.

A deed in the Hunstanton Muniment Room,¹ whereby Jordan ffolyot on May 28, 1285, grants a rent for life out of the manor of *Lechesam*, is witnessed by 'Johanne le Estrange milite,' and also by 'Johanne le Estrange'; these are probably the father and son, who married Isabella and Clementia respectively.

The Feudal Aids for 1302 mention that Robert de Felton held half a knight's fee in Litcham of '*Johanne Extraneo de la March*,' i.e. of John (V) of Knockin, who held under the Earl of Arundel;² and, in the same year, that Isabella le Strange, Richard le Deneys, and their parceners held a knight's fee in Longham and Cotes of the Earl of Arundel; apparently therefore Isabella's husband, John le Strange of Litcham, was then dead. In the Feudal Aids for 1316 John de Felton and Isabella Lestraunge are entered as the lords of Lucham;³ she was deceased before 1346, as the same authority for that year mentions that John de Gunton and others then held the knight's fee in Longham and Cotes which Isabella le Straunge and her parceners formerly held.⁴

A Fine of February 9, 1305, shows that John and Clementia granted to John de Stonham and Roger de Necton 44 messuages, 70 acres of land, 12 of meadow, 6 solidates, and the rent of 3 quarters of barley and 3 quarters of oats, in Wellingham, Weasenhams, and Fransham, with the advowson of Wellingham church, with half the manor of Little Snoring, and the advowson of a moiety of the church of that manor; all of which the said John and Roger gave back to John and Clementia and their heirs.⁵ This was shortly before the decease of John le Strange; the inquest on him, already quoted,⁶ shows that he died *s.p.* on May 21, 1305. His widow Clementia held for her life the manor and church of Wellingham, and the Hundreds of Launditch and Greenhow.⁷ It is evident from the above Fines that the le Stranges of Litcham were possessed of a considerable estate in nine or ten different parishes in that neighbourhood.

The subjoined pedigree is deducible from the foregoing evidences.

¹ N.A. 35.

² *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, iii. 416.

³ *Ibid.* p. 454.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 539.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 33 Edw. I, Case 161, File 120, No. 956, dorse.

⁶ *Supra*, p. 48.

⁷ P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 2 Edw. II, Case 162, File 125, No. 110.

PEDIGREE OF LE STRANGE OF LITCHAM.

SIWARD, or SEWARD = * * *

Ralph (I) = * * *
 mentioned in
 charter quo-
 ted by Blome-
 field

Durannus le Strange, = Prudentia * * *,
 acquired Hundreds
 of Launditch and
 S. Greenhow from
 Alan fitz Flaald.
 Witnessed grant by
 John le S. to Cast-
 leacre, c. 1160.
 witnessed her hus-
 band's grant in
 Castleacre Char-
 tulary.

Ralph le Strange (II), = Agnes * * *,
 witnessed his father's
 grant to Castleacre
 survived her
 husband

Ralph le Strange (III) = * * * ? Roger le Strange
 had respice of knight-
 hood, 1225
 occ. N.A. 1.

John le Strange (I) ; = Isabella * * *
 occ. in or before
 1259. Enfeoffed
 John his son and
 Clementia of the
 Hundreds of Laun-
 ditch and S. Green-
 how in 1293-4; d.
 in 1302.
 occ. 1278,
 1296; *su-
perstes* 1316;
 d. before
 1346.

John le Strange (II) ; = Clementia * * *
 enfeoffed by his
 father, 1293, 1294;
ob.s.p. 21 May 1305.

relict of Jor-
 dande Sackville,
 second dau. of
 Wm. de Burgh;
 occ. 1316.

Ralph le S. = * * *
 brother
 and heir.
 Age 50
 at d. of
 John.

Several other le Stranges, whose names occur in rolls or charters of this period, are difficult to connect with known branches of the family.

ADAM, HUGH, AND JOHN LE STRANGE.

In the Pipe Roll of 23 Hen. II (1177), Guy le Strange (of Alveley), then Sheriff of Shropshire, accounts for 15 marks paid by him, in accordance with the King's writ, to Adam le Strange. Two charters of this same Guy are tested by Adam; one, still preserved at Badger in Shropshire, to which Eyton assigns the date *c.* 1174,¹ mentions no less than five le Stranges; Guy of Alveley confirms a sale of land at Badger, the two first witnesses are '*Johannes Extraneus*' and '*Hugo Extraneus*,' and among the others are '*Adam filius Hamonis Extranei*,' and '*Johannes frater Hugonis Extranei*.' Carthew² says that Hugh, who was one of the above witnesses, was dead in 1240, and that his inheritance in Shropshire was divided among females, being held under John le Strange of the fitz Alan fief. The second charter in which Adam appears is in the Haughmond Chartulary, and is placed by Eyton at about the year 1179.³ It is a grant by Guy, shortly before his death, of the mill of Osbaston to Haughmond Abbey, and is witnessed by Ralph, the grantor's son, and by Adam, son of Hamo Extraneus. Who was this Hamo? It can scarcely have been the son of Guy of Alveley, who died in his father's lifetime, as he could not have had a son old enough, and the only other Hamo that we know of at that period was Guy's elder brother, who, as we have seen from the Pipe Rolls, died before Michaelmas 1160, leaving no legitimate issue. Adam may possibly have been an illegitimate son of his. About this same period an Adam le Strange, who may or may not have been the same individual, appears at Loppington, near Ellesmere.⁴ Alexander de Loppington, who lived in the reigns of Richard I and Henry III, is recorded to have given half of that manor in frank-marriage to Adam le Strange, who married one of his

¹ Eyton, ii. 66.

³ Eyton, x. 366.

² i. 157.

⁴ *Ibid.*, x. 224-5.

daughters.¹ They had a son named William who, at the Assizes of November 1221, had and won several suits against his brother-in-law, Richard de Loppington, as to the validity of the above gift. William le Strange appears to have had a son named John, as the Pimhill Hundred Roll for 1225 shows that William was living in that year; while the Roll for 1274 records that the half of Loppington, which had originally gone to Adam le Strange, had been given in fee by John le Strange of Loppington to the abbot of Lilleshull.²

I have already mentioned³ that the grant by John le Strange (I) of the church of Hunstanton to Haughmond Abbey, between 1172 and 1177,⁴ is witnessed by a canon, also named John le Strange. Of this canon I find no further mention, unless he be the same individual as John, son of Thomas le Strange, who attested a charter of William Banastre to Haughmond Abbey c. 1216;⁵ but even so, it does not help the identification much, as I do not know who this Thomas le Strange was.

REGINALD LE STRANGE.

Another le Strange who, as far as I am aware, is mentioned once and once only, is Reginald, whose name is supplied by the Haughmond Chartulary⁶ as the first witness to a confirmation of a grant made to that abbey before 1157 by Richard de Pichford.

RICHARD LE STRANGE.

The Pipe Roll for 5 Hen. II (1159) gives a trace of a le Strange in Devonshire in the following entry:

DEUENESCIRA. Ricardus filius Estrangi reddit compotum de c. marcas pro se redimendo.

A grant⁷ of March 1, 1160, from the canons of Exeter to the

¹ *Rot. Hundr., temp. Hen. III and Edw. I*, ii. 1046.

² Eyton, x. 227; *Cal. Charter Rolls, Hen. III-Edw. I*, 1257-1300, p. 59.

³ *Supra*, p. 35.

⁴ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 121.

⁵ Eyton, x. 46.

⁶ Fo. 40; Eyton, x. 201.

⁷ *Hist. MSS. Comm.* iv. 49.

nuns of Polslo of a burial ground, is witnessed by 'Richardo filio Estrangi.'

DOMINA ESTRANGIA.

The only other le Stranges of this period of whom I have found mention are two ladies who held property, recorded in the Pipe Roll of Henry II, one of them in Kent, the other in Gloucestershire. These are not single entries, but recur year after year. In the case of Kent the first entry is as follows :

CHENT. 3 Hen. II (1157).

In terris datis. In Eilesford [Aylesford] xxxij libras blancas quas Estrangia habet.¹

'*Blancas*' signifying blanched money tried by fire. Nearly similar entries follow for each year up to the 17 Hen. II, except that the name is sometimes spelt 'Extranea,' and that she is usually styled 'Domina,' but in no instance is any Christian name given. The latest entry which shows the date of her death is as follows :

CHENT. 17 Hen. II (1171).

Domine Extranee iiij libras blancas in Ailesford de viij^a parte anni dum vixit.²

An inquest of a century later on William de Dunstan (Ex. No. 19, 55 Henry III) says that one Strangea, who sometime held the manor of Aylesford, gave a rent therefrom to William in frank-marriage with a *domicella* of her household.³

Hasted in his 'History of Kent' makes no mention of any le Strange having held property in Aylesford.

In the Gloucestershire instance the Pipe Roll gives the Christian name of the lady, viz. '*Heiliwisa*,' but she cannot be identical with the Kentish tenant, as the entries run on to 23 Hen. II, without any mention of her death.

¹ *Pipe Roll Soc.*, Hen. II, p. 77.

² *Archæologia Cantiana*, vi. 238, 246.

³ *Ibid.* p. 110.

The earliest entry is :

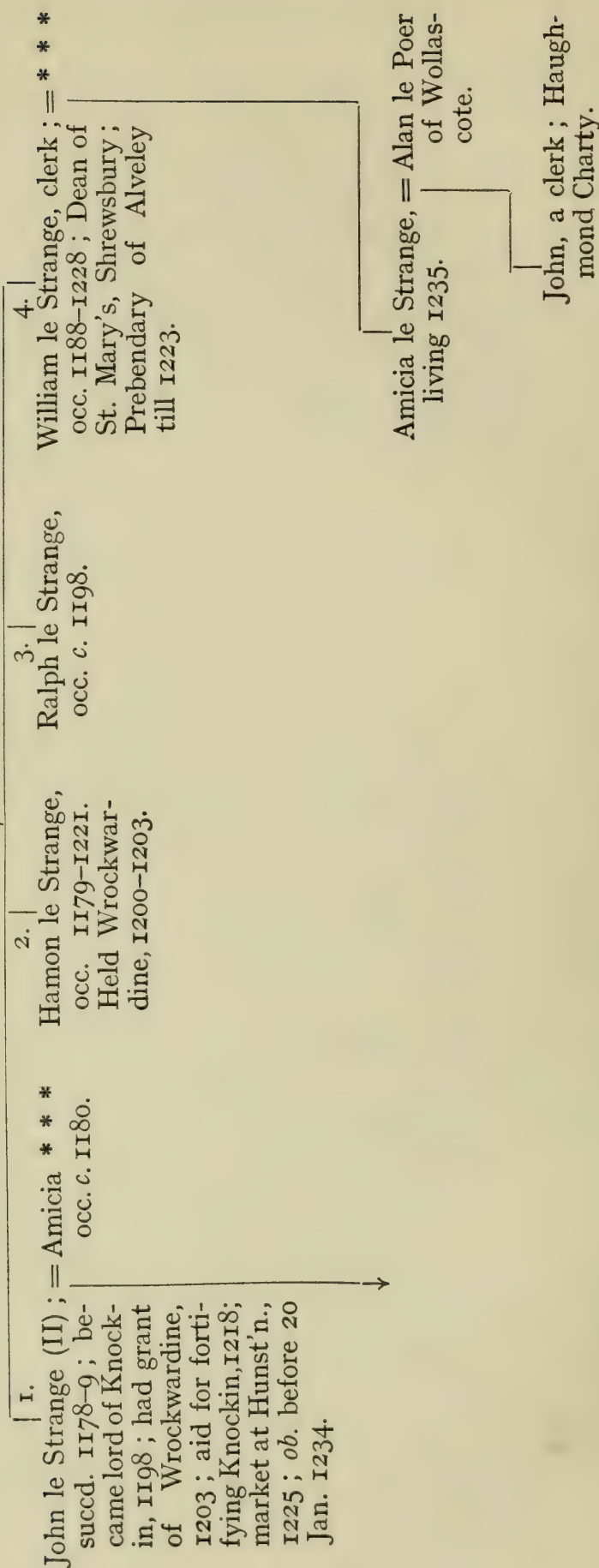
GLOECESTRESCIRA. 7 Hen. II (1161).

In liberationibus constitutis Heiliwise Extranee xxx.s. et v.d.

Liberationes constitutæ being certain fixed payments charged on the King's lands, for which the Sheriff was allowed when rendering the account of his farm of the county. In the 9 Hen. II the amount paid to Heiliwisa was increased to 'xlv.s. et vij.d. et ob.,' and it remained at that figure in each year up to the latest entry in 24 Hen. II (1178).

PEDIGREE No. III

JOHN LE STRANGE (I) = HAWISE * * *



CHAPTER III

JOHN LE STRANGE (II)

1178-1234

JOHN LE STRANGE (II) succeeded his father in his possessions in Norfolk and Shropshire in 1178-79, and as there is no mention of his lands having been taken into the King's hands, it is evident that he was already of full age. In fact, he had been in public life for some years, as we have seen in the last chapter¹ that he was associated with his father, *c.* 1175, as a witness to that grant made by William Fitz Alan (II), on his coming of age, to Buildwas Abbey, which was attested by no less than five le Stranges. For a period of fifty-six years he served under four successive sovereigns, through the last eleven years of Henry II, the whole of the reigns of Richard I and John, and through eighteen years of that of Henry III. The principle which guided him in public life appears to have been that of steadfast loyalty and unshaken fidelity to the occupant of the throne, totally irrespective of the merits of the individual: he was the ideal of a feudal tenant, the King's 'man,' and never swerved during that troubled half-century from the homage which he had sworn and the fealty which he owed to his lord, whoever he might be.

Though his duties and necessities as a Lord Marcher kept him mostly employed on the Welsh border, he did not neglect his Norfolk possessions; almost his first appearance after his father's death was in connection with the manor of Holme-next-the-Sea,

¹ *Supra*, p. 35.

which he held under the Earl of Arundel. A dispute as to the advowson of the church had arisen between the abbot of Ramsey and John le Strange. The chartulary of that abbey, published in the Rolls Series, contains several pages of close print, detailing an inquisition held at Holme as to the rights of the case. The jury found :

Ecclesia de Hulmo est in donatione Johannis le Straunge. Terræ de Hulmo non sunt distinctæ per hydas, vel per virgatas, et ideo nescitur quot hydæ vel quot virgatæ sunt ibidem.¹

The matter was settled by a fine levied at Westminster on November 13, 1188, whereby the abbot quitclaimed the advowson to John le Strange, receiving in return a yearly pension of one mark from the parson of Holme.² The arrangement was confirmed by the Bishop of Norwich (John of Oxford), who laid down the law in the following terms :

Since there has been a controversy between the abbot and convent of Ramsey and 'nobilem virum Johannem Extraneum' about the advowson of Holme, in order to make peace we grant that the said abbot and convent shall have a mark of silver annually from the cleric instituted into the said church on the presentation of the said John, but no other rights in the said church ; and John shall present a cleric to the Bishop whenever a vacancy occurs.³

John executed a charter granting the pension to the abbot as stipulated,⁴ and everyone was pleased, except perhaps the poor parson, who had to pay his bishop the equivalent of £30 a year in money of to-day. The Lilleshall Chartulary⁵ shows that the bishop instituted William le Brun into the church of Holme on the presentation of John le Strange, the patron. William was already rector of the church of St. Mary at Hunstanton, which, as we have seen above,⁶ John le Strange's father, who was perhaps the rector's cousin on the mother's side, had granted to the abbey of Haughmond. Eyton⁷ says that this grant was confirmed by the Bishop of Norwich in 1178, and that in another charter he allowed the canons of Haughmond to appropriate the rectory ;

¹ i. 401.

² *Ibid.* ii. 383.

³ *Chronicon Abbatiae Ramesiensis* (Rolls Series), p. 313.

⁴ *Chartulary of Ramsey*, i. 100.

⁵ Ff. 55 and 80 ; Eyton, x. 266.

⁶ *Supra*, p. 55.

⁷ x. 266.

this transaction explains how it is that the benefice is at the present day a vicarage. Not long afterwards John le Strange (II) gave the church of Holme to Lilleshall Abbey for the soul's health of himself and Amicia his wife, 'Master William le Strange,' the grantor's brother, attesting the gift. This charter is printed in Dugdale's 'Monasticon.'¹

Immediately on his accession John (II) confirmed his father's grant of the church of Cheswardine to Haughmond,² and, not long afterwards, confirmed William fitz Walter's charter, granting to the same abbey land at Middle, in which the latter had been enfeoffed by John's father.³ Another early deed of his, which I have mentioned in dealing with le Strange of Litcham,⁴ confirms a grant by his father of some land at Webblescowe to Haughmond.

The Pipe Rolls for 27 Henry II (1180-81), and succeeding years, show that the Sheriff of Shropshire had the same allowances in respect of Ness and Cheswardine as had been made during the time of John (I), viz. £7 10s. for the former, and £4 for the latter: and, similarly, the Sheriff of Staffordshire continued to be allowed 8s. 8d. for the pasture at Trentham originally given to John (I).

The foregoing are the only transactions that I can find associated with the name of John (II) during the closing years of the reign of Henry II. That king died at Chinon on the Vienne, near Tours, on July 6, 1189, and Richard was crowned on September 3 following. Richard cared little for the administration of his realm of England, his heart was entirely set on military glory; of the ten years of his reign he only passed about ten months in England, which gave small opportunity for John le Strange to become personally associated with his new sovereign; he was fully occupied with looking after that absent sovereign's interests on the Welsh March, and in prosecuting several lawsuits in which he became engaged.

One of these, which was concerned with the manor of Great Withyford in Shropshire, was begun in the year 1194, and lasted for ten years. The proceedings are recorded in the Pipe Rolls of Richard I, ascribed to Trinity term 1194, and the Plea Rolls of the

¹ vi. 263, No. viii.

² Eyton, x. 30.

³ *Ibid.* p. 72.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 47.

same King.¹ It appears that about the year 1191 Robert Fitz Aer, who then held the manor of Withyford under Fitz Alan, was indicted for the murder of Richard de Brigida, that he voluntarily placed himself in prison, and that his estate was seized into the King's hand. The accusation was subsequently withdrawn, but during this temporary forfeiture John le Strange claimed Withyford as his by right, and obtained possession of it by writ from Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, the Chancellor, who was King Richard's Viceroy at that time. After the release of Robert Fitz Aer from prison he brought an action against le Strange to recover possession of Withyford; the proceedings dragged on for several years. On May 12, 1195, John le Strange, when summoned to answer to the suit at Westminster, obtained an adjournment² on the ground that he was employed on the King's service in Wales, where, as we have seen above,³ he was helping his dying cousin, Ralph le Strange of Alveley, in the protection of the silver mines of Carreghova. Robert Fitz Aer did not live to finish the suit, but it was prosecuted by his widow Emma de Say on behalf of her son Robert, then under age, and was not settled until September 25, 1199; a final concord was then arrived at, by which John le Strange was recognised as mesne lord of Withyford, while actual possession was given to Robert Fitz Aer by the service of half a knight's fee under le Strange, instead of under Fitz Alan.

The charges made by the Sheriff of Shropshire in the Pipe Rolls of 1194 and 1195 for the repairs and victualling of Carreghova Castle are sufficiently interesting to be given in detail: ⁴

Pro 20 ligonibus [*spades*] emptis et missis ad castrum de Karakwain. Et in operacione cinguli [*surrounding wall*] circa predictum castrum. . . . Et in liberacione militum et servientium ad custodiam minarie de Karakawain £28 2s. 5d. per breve Regis et per testimonium Johannis et Radulph Extraneorum et Josephi clerici Archiepiscopi. . . . Et Radulpho Extraneo £20 ad perficiendum cingulum circa Ruilium [*windlass of well*] de Karrecovan. . . . Et ipsi Radulfo £7, pro 70 crennoc' frumenti, et £4 pro 50 baconibus qui liberati fuerunt ei ad custodiam

¹ *Pipe Roll Soc.* xiv. 3. See also Eyton, i. 201-2; ix. 310-12. Salop Assizes, 5 John, membr. 2, dorso.

² Placita incerti temporis Regis Johannis, No. 60 [really of Easter term, 6 Ric. I].

³ *Supra*, p. 41.

⁴ Eyton, x. 357.

castri de Karrecovan. . . . Et Johanni Extraneo 6 marcas ad faciendum puteum in predicto castello cum muro et Ruilio.

Another entry on the Plea Roll of the same year, 1194, gives particulars of a second lawsuit in which John le Strange was involved, concerning the land at Barnham in Suffolk, which had come to him from his ancestor, Hugh de Plaiz ; details as to this have already been given.¹

A third lawsuit in which John le Strange was engaged was brought to a close by a Fine in the year 1195.² It seems that Robert Mortimer of Attleborough had some claim to the whole Norfolk feoffment of le Strange under the Earl of Arundel ; this consisted, as we have seen in Chapter I, of five knights' fees in Hunstanton, Ringstead, Tottington, and Snitterton. Mortimer ultimately released the whole to le Strange by Fine, in consideration of which the latter gave all his lands in Tottington to Mortimer, to be held under him by nineteen-twentieths of a knight's fee. The church of St. Andrew at Tottington was, however, excepted out of this grant, and, with the assent of Mortimer, was given by John le Strange to the Priory of St. Mary at Campesse in Suffolk : it was appropriated to that house in 1302, the rectory being valued at thirty marks, and the vicarage at six. In Pope Nicholas's 'Taxation of 1291,' Tottington is rated at £20. A further exception was made of lands belonging to several tenants in Fransham, one of whom was Hugh, son of Hugh le Strange ; for this grant of land in Tottington, Robert Mortimer paid to John le Strange one hundred pounds of silver.

Eyton quotes numerous Shropshire charters of this period, either executed or witnessed by John le Strange (II). In the first charter to Oswestry, granted by William fitz Alan (II) about 1190, the first witnesses are '*Johanne Extraneo et Hamone fratre suo*' ;³ John also attested at about the same date fitz Alan's grant of the advowson of the church of St. Oswald of *Album Monasterium* (Oswestry) to Shrewsbury Abbey.⁴ At Michaelmas 1195 we find John le Strange acting as pledge to Warin de Burwardsley in a

¹ *Supra*, p. 14.

² P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 7 Ric. I, Case 153, File 1, No. 36.

³ Harl. MSS. 1981, p. 25.

⁴ Eyton, x. 335, and Salop Chartulary, No. 301 ; and Harl. MSS. 1981, p. 24.

Fine at Rowton.¹ Eyton makes a point of there having been some connection between the two families, because when some years later John le Strange made a grant in Cheswardine to Haughmond Abbey, Warin de Burward' was a witness.² The name of John le Strange (II), like that of his father, frequently appears in charters in connection with that of his suzerain fitz Alan, especially in those relating to their favourite abbey. At this period le Strange certainly passed most of his time on the Welsh March: there is nothing to lead us to suppose that he accompanied King Richard either to the Crusade in 1190, or to the French wars in 1194-9. We find him³ effecting a composition with Hugh, abbot of Shrewsbury, which Eyton says⁴ must have passed in the County Court at Salop before June 1195; and we have seen that he was on the King's service at Carreghova in that year.

I have already alluded⁵ to the transactions with the three heiresses of Guy le Strange of Alveley, by which Knockin came into the possession of the elder branch of the family. Ralph le Strange had died in 1195, but it was not until three years later that the three Fines were completed between his sisters and their cousin, John of Ness and Cheswardine, who thus became 'of Knockin' also. That fief grew at once into a place of considerable importance; within a year or two of coming into possession of it, John styled himself lord of Knockin, as may be seen from a deed in the Haughmond Chartulary,⁶ whereby '*Johannes Extraneus dominus de Knockin*' grants to that abbey the *new* chapel of Knockin with free access thereto.

Scarcely one stone remains upon another to show what Knockin once was; and it is somewhat difficult in the present day to understand the strategic value and importance of this place, as it stands upon almost level ground, some 220 feet above the sea, and is even commanded by neighbouring hillocks within easy bow-shot. It lies a little to the right of the modern road from Shrewsbury to Oswestry, about six miles south-east by south of the latter town; it was therefore a few miles nearer the Welsh hills than

¹ Eyton, ii. 8.

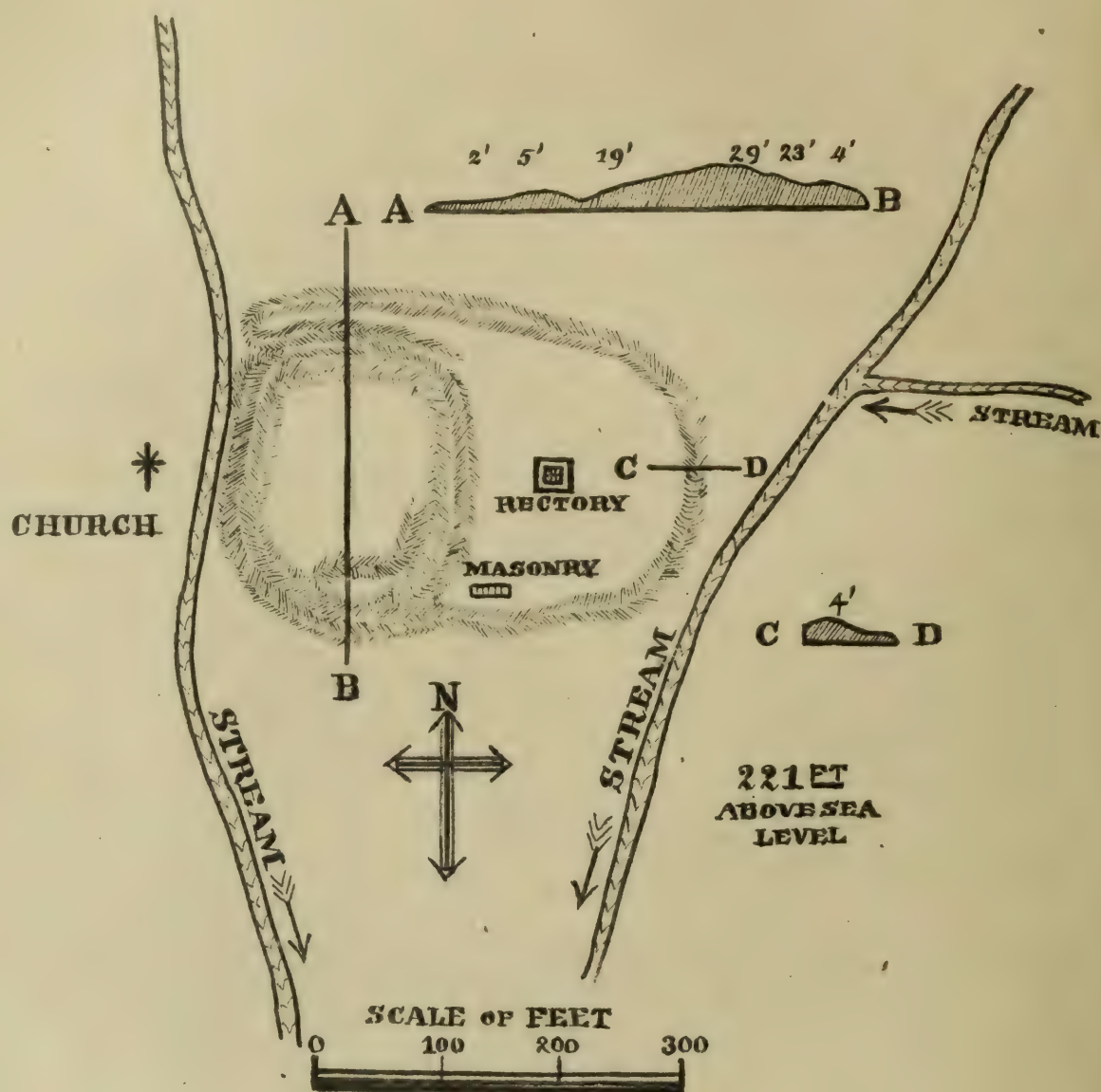
² Salop Chartulary, No. 16.

³ *Supra*, p. 42.

⁴ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 43.

⁵ Eyton, i. 87; ii. 68.

⁶ Eyton, x. 369.



Knockin Castle

PLATE VI.

Erratum.

Page 65, line 20 from top, omit the words without acknowledgment.

The author regrets that he overlooked the acknowledgment of indebtedness to Mr. Downman which appears in the list of Contents of the 'Victoria History of Shropshire,' Vol. I, and thus did an injustice to the editors and the publishers.



Knockin Castle

PLATE VI.

Ness was, and formed, consequently, the most advanced outpost from the Shropshire side in that part of the debatable land, for which reason perhaps it was adopted as the *caput baronie* of the le Stranges. All that now remains of the castle is an oblong mound or hillock about twenty-four feet high, close to the road and overgrown with trees ; there is scarcely a sign of masonry ; merely a few hewn stones, part of the curtain wall on the south-east side of the mound, mark the site where once the keep stood ; the steepest side appears to have been towards the north, where there is a fosse, 5 feet in depth. The entrenchments are not in their original perfection, but the scarp of the original defences can still (1906) be traced. The entrance was probably on the eastern side, as a semicircular fore-court, or barbican, surrounded by an escarpment, lies to the east ; in this the modern rectory with its garden stands. A small brook, tributary of the Severn, running southwards divides into two branches higher up, making a sort of island, in which the castle stood, and this no doubt greatly strengthened the defences. The annexed plan is enlarged from that given on a minute scale in the 'Victoria History of Shropshire,'¹ which appears to be copied, without acknowledgment, from a careful survey of all the earthworks of Shropshire, drawn to scale by Mr. E. A. Downman, whose plans and descriptions have lately been deposited in the British Museum.² The name, Knockin, accurately describes the situation ; the Welsh word *cnwc* denotes a hillock, and the suffix is probably a diminutive ; the local pronunciation is *Knuckin*. The word Knock, as part of a place-name, is extremely common in Ireland, but somewhat rare in England ; it appears in *Cannock* in Staffordshire, and again in our own neighbourhood at Lynn, where 'Guanock' is the old name of the little hill on which stands the Chapel of Our Lady of the Red Mount.

The Pipe Rolls of the period show that Knockin was considered to be a strong military position, as, in mentioning the resignation thereof made by the three co-heiresses of Alveley, they describe it as comprehending 'all the land which was before Ralph le Strange's, together with the fortress (*municione*) which is called Cnukin.'³

¹ i. 396.

² Add. MSS. 37678.

³ Rot. Pip. 8, 9, 10, Ric. I.

In 1197, while Richard was engaged in Normandy in building his castle of Château Gaillard at Les Audelys on the Seine, John le Strange was among the most active of the Marcher barons. Eyton says: ¹

He had, in fact, the custody of Pole Castle (now Powis Castle) on behalf of the Crown. From the Shropshire Pipe Roll of that year it appears that Archbishop Hubert had, about Midsummer, made to John le Strange a grant of *ten librates* of land in Ford; but the grant took no effect, and the Sheriff, in lieu of the first quarter's income, pays 50s. in money to the said John.

In the same year we find John and Ralph his brother attesting a charter of Robert Corbet of Caus, granting Wentnor Mill to the monastery of Buildwas. ²

I have said that, owing to the scanty time that King Richard passed in England, John le Strange had few opportunities of personal association with him. Richard was only in his own kingdom for two, or possibly three short visits; once in 1189, when he came over to take possession and to be crowned at Westminster; for a second visit in January 1190, when he was making preparations to start on the third Crusade, the evidence is doubtful; the last one took place in 1194, after his escape from imprisonment in Germany, on which occasion it was that Philip of France wrote to Richard's brother John, '*Take heed to yourself, the devil is broken loose.*' I have no evidence that John le Strange was present at the Coronation in 1190, but he was one of the witnesses to a charter, cited by Eyton, ³ and purporting to have been expedited by the King at Westminster on January 24, 1190; if it can be proved that this charter was issued personally by Richard it is strong evidence for a not generally recognised visit to England, but it is hard to find room for it, as he met Philip in France on January 13 at Gué St. Remi, and in February summoned his mother and ministers to meet him in Normandy; Professor Tout considers that the point needs investigation, as being novel and important. Four years later Richard landed at Sandwich, after the German princes had compelled the Emperor to release him from captivity, and John le Strange must have hastened from the Welsh border to meet his sovereign. On April 17, 1194, Richard

¹ vii. 182.

² *Ibid.* vii. 17.

³ vii. 12.

was crowned a second time at Winchester, and then proceeded to Portsmouth, whence he embarked for Normandy; while at Portsmouth he confirmed by charter¹ some recent grants to Haughmond Abbey, and this confirmation is attested by seven lay witnesses, of whom John le Strange was one. Richard never returned to England; he died on April 6, 1199, having been mortally wounded by an arrow while engaged in suppressing a petty rebellion in the Limousin.

At the time of the accession of King John, John le Strange (II) was in the prime of life, and must have been about forty years of age: he speedily became one of the new King's most trusted servants. The Pipe Rolls show that he continued to hold Ness and Cheswardine *in capite*, as well as the pasture in Staffordshire granted to his father.² Cheswardine, it will be remembered, was held as half a knight's fee. Le Strange's first transaction with King John related to sporting rights; in April, 1200, he paid a fine of 20 marks in order that his wood at *Chersworth* might be had out of *regard*, that it might not be afforested, and that no one might take anything therefrom without licence from him;³ on April 16 the King granted to him and his heirs by charter that his wood of Cheswardine called Suthle should be quit of all suits of forest, and of all forestage and regard thereof, and should not be meddled with by the royal foresters.⁴ Apparently the King exacted a further sum of £10 out of John le Strange for these privileges, as the Pipe Roll for Shropshire for 1202 contains the following entry:

De oblatis. Johannes Extraneus reddit compotum de x libris pro habendo bosco suo de Chessewardi.⁵

It appears that the church of Cheswardine had been given to Haughmond by perpetual concession of John le Strange.⁶ In 1200 he became security for the fine of 60 marks which, as we shall see later, his younger brother Hamon made with the King for the manor of Wrockwardine.⁷

¹ Eyton, vii. 293.

² *Rot. Cancell. Magn. Rot. Pipæ*, 3 John, pp. 46, 121.

³ *Rot. de Obl. et Fin., temp. Reg. Johannis*, p. 59.

⁴ *Rot. Chart.*, 1199-1216 (fo. 1837), p. 45b. ⁵ *Rot. Canc. Pip.*, 3 John, p. 126.

⁶ Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 9.

⁷ *Rot. de Oblatis, temp. R. Joh.*, p. 60.

One of the manors which had been conferred upon John le Strange (I) by fitz Alan was Ruyton, eight miles south-east of Oswestry—known as the manor of the eleven towns, from the eleven townships into which it was formerly divided. Le Strange had built a castle here, which was captured by the Welsh and destroyed during the war between Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powis and Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales. The former had succeeded to the sovereignty of Powis, or mid-Wales, on the death of his father, Owen Cyveilioc, in 1197. Llewelyn, who had married King John's illegitimate daughter Joan, called a council of the Welsh chieftains in 1201 to receive their homage, but Gwenwynwyn refused to attend. Llewelyn consequently invaded his territories and eventually obliged him to submit.

The 'Gesta Fulconis Filii Warini'¹ contain a narrative of some curious events relating to this period, a mixture, of course, of truth and fable, which gives a lifelike picture of the times, but as it has been already printed it is too long to quote. The story relates that John le Strange, lord of Knockin and Ruyton, who was always on the King's side, did much damage to the people of the Prince [of Wales]. The Prince therefore caused Ruyton to be demolished by Fulk Fitz Warin, and imprisoned John's men; John complained to the King, who sent Sir Henry de Audley with 10,000 knights to help John to avenge himself. A fight ensued in the neighbourhood of Middle, in which le Strange was struck in the face and marked for life by Fulk's lance. Fulk had but 700 knights against the 10,000 on the other side, and therefore could not win the day. He retired to Oswestry, where he made great lamentation on account of Sir Audulph de Bracy, one of his knights who had been captured and imprisoned by the King, who was at Shrewsbury. A certain John de Rampaigne, who had 'great skill with tambour, harp, viol, cithern and jugglery,' undertook to free de Bracy. He disguised himself as a black minstrel, rode to Shrewsbury, and obtained access to the King's presence, averring that he had come from Ethiopia on purpose to see the most renowned prince in Christendom. He was welcomed

¹ *Rolls Series*, vol. lxvi. 355-8. See also *History of Fulk Fitzwarine*, ed. by Thos. Wright, pp. 104-112.

by the King, and made much minstrelsy during the day. After the King had retired for the night, Sir Henry de Audley ordered de Bracy, whom the King intended to slay on the morrow, to be fetched, so that he might have a good night of it before his death. They conversed and made music, and de Rampaigne began a song which Sir Audulph used to sing, which enabled the latter to recognise the disguised minstrel. More wine was called for, and de Rampaigne served the cup, into which he threw a powder that caused them all to fall asleep. The minstrel and de Bracy then knotted the towels and sheets which were in the chamber and escaped through a window overlooking the Severn, and got safely to Fulk Fitz Warin at Oswestry.

The historical facts that may be gathered from the above are: (1) that Ruyton Castle was destroyed by the Welsh during the war of 1202, and this perhaps led to the building of Knockin Castle; and (2) that John le Strange was on the King's side and high in favour with him. The sequence of events is certainly not historical; King John was not at Shrewsbury soon after the capture of Ruyton by the Welsh, for he was absent in Normandy between May 1201 and December 1203. The numbers of knights said to have been engaged are of course impossible, but one would like to believe that the account of John le Strange having been wounded in the face and marked for life in some border fight had some foundation in fact. Mr. Lloyd-Kenyon, in his account of the borough of Ruyton, says: ¹

There is nothing to show that the le Stranges who held the manor of Ruyton the whole of the 13th century ever rebuilt the castle, and it is not mentioned in the Fine of the manor levied in 1299; but the le Stranges sold the manor to their suzerain, Edmund Earl of Arundel, soon after his accession to the title in 1301, and if the castle was then in ruins he must have rebuilt it, for it was certainly in existence in 1313, when the service of half the manor of Great Withyford was returnable at Ruyton Castle.

John le Strange seems to have made a deer-park at Ruyton, for about the year 1195 he effected an agreement with the abbot of Shrewsbury for adding a corner of the abbot's wood of Birch 'extending from the place where the le Strange Park fence came

¹ *Trans. Shrop. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, iii. (2nd Series), pp. 237-8.

down to the water of Peverec, to the end of his meadow on the side of Plettebrug mill ' ; for this he was to pay the abbot a rent of one doe yearly.¹ A few years later he gave Ruyton mill to Haughmond Abbey, ignoring the previous grant of the same by his father. Another eleemosynary gift of one of his predecessors confirmed by him was that made by his uncle Hamo of land in Betton-Strange to Haughmond.² John was present at Salop Assizes in 1203, as the Assize Roll of 5 John shows that he became surety for certain fines incurred by Alan de Petraponte.³

The Pipe Roll of 1203 shows that John le Strange fined 60 marks in that year to have the custody of the manor of Wrockwardine, which had been held for a short time by his younger brother Hamo ; this arrangement was nominally continued on the Sheriff's accounts for many years, but, practically, John was year after year excused payment of the rent as a reward for his services : Wrockwardine was, however, only held by him subject to the King's pleasure.⁴ We shall see later on that this grant was enlarged into a freehold.

It must have been about this time (1204-10) that Reyner, Bishop of St. Asaph, bought from John le Strange the whole township of Willcot, a member of Ness, at the enormous price of 70 marks, in order that he might bestow it upon the hospital which he was founding and richly endowing at Oswestry. The grantor stipulated that, after Bishop Reyner's death, the mill and vivary of Willcot should revert freely to the grantor or his heirs, and that a rent of one bezant, or two shillings, should be paid to him. Not long afterwards John le Strange confirmed an arrangement with the canons of Haughmond that they should have the hospital estate at Willcot on condition of their providing and maintaining a chantry within the walls of the hospital.⁵ It was also about this period, and after he had acquired Knockin from his cousins, the heirs of Guy, that, by his second grant to Haughmond, he gave to that abbey one-fourth part of his vill of

¹ Eyton, x. 113.

² Harl. MSS. 446 ; Quatern. xi. fo. 4.

³ Eyton, i. 213.

⁴ Eyton, ix. 21 ; Cal. Rot. Chart. and Inq., 5 John, p. 19b ; Rot. de Liberate, 5 John, p. 101.

⁵ Eyton, x. 285 ; Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 161b, tit. Oswaldestre.

Cheswardine, and a right of common throughout his demesnes there; also the whole land of Norslepe, with the upper vivary near his castle of Knockin.

King John, after the murder of Arthur of Brittany, and his marriage with Isabella of Angoulême, was condemned by Philip Augustus to forfeit his French dominions. Philip promptly invaded them, and annexed to the French Crown not only the Duchy of Normandy, but also Maine, Touraine, and Anjou; John made no attempt to retain or recover them, but retired to England in December 1203. The Patent Rolls show that when the King was at Worcester, on March 16, 1204, he sent a safe conduct by the Bishops of Bangor and St. Asaph, William fitz Alan, John le Strange, and others to Llewelyn Prince of North Wales for going and coming to confer with us.¹ In the following year John le Strange is mentioned in the Roll of 6 John for Leicestershire as having removed from the lands of Roger de la Zouche at Ashby 16 cattle, 4 cows, and 9 hogs, valued at £4 6s.²; this foray was made in the interests of the King's vengeance on Roger de la Zouche, who had renounced his allegiance after the murder of Arthur. A charter of John le Strange's of this period to Haughmond Abbey acquits and frees the abbot's land of Balderston of *Guards doverant* (*de satellitis doverantibus*) for ever; that is, that the land should be free from any contribution for the maintenance of such officers. Eyton thinks that they were a kind of manorial police.³ They are mentioned again in another charter of John's of about the same date, whereby he allows that the land of Robert Hert, of Teddesmere, shall be quit of *Guards doverant* for ever.⁴ John le Strange apparently held some land in Leicestershire, as, in the seventh year of John, we find that Robert Fitz Norman of Ipswich sued a writ of *mort d'ancestor* for three parts of a knight's fee in Shanketon (Shang-ton, near Leicester) against 'Johannem Extraneum qui feodum illud tenet.'⁵

The period of John's reign from 1205 to 1213 was mainly occupied by his quarrel with the Pope concerning the appoint-

¹ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*, 1201-16, fo. 1835, p. 39.

³ Eyton, x. 73.

⁴ *Ibid.* xi. 3.

² *Rot. Norm. in Turr. Lond.* i. 139.

⁵ *Rot. de Oblatis et Finibus*, p. 360.

ment of Stephen Langton to the see of Canterbury. The King, who had alienated the affection of nearly all his subjects, was ultimately forced to acknowledge the papal pretensions, and, in order to obtain removal of the interdict, he even surrendered his crown to the Pope, and agreed to hold it in fee by an annual payment of one thousand marks. During these disgraceful years the name of John le Strange seldom appears, but it is evident that he did not take sides with most of the barons against his sovereign. The King endeavoured to neutralise the effect of the interdict by expeditions against the rebels in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. On October 8, 1208, a treaty with the Welsh was negotiated at Shrewsbury, whereby King John, on receipt of twenty hostages, enlarged Gwenwynwyn, then his prisoner, John le Strange being one of the witnesses to the bargain.¹ Three years later there was again war on the Marches; John invaded Wales in 1211, penetrated to Snowdon, and forced Llewelyn to submit and give hostages; on a fresh outbreak next year John had all these hostages hung, but was deterred from proceeding further, as his own daughter, Joan, wife of Llewelyn, conveyed information to him that the barons intended to betray him to the enemy. Eyton² gives numerous instances of the trust reposed in le Strange by the King. On May 25, 1212, the constable of Oswestry was ordered to send by le Strange's hand to the King the moneys received from the sale of the King's stores there.³ On July 6, the King ordered John not to proceed with the sale, but to replace all that had been already sold, and to hold them with other stores ready to be sent anywhither as he might be directed.⁴ There are further orders in August and September of the same nature. It appears from the Close Rolls that John le Strange had received £32 for the sales which he had already made at Oswestry, and a further sum of £28 from the burgesses of Shrewsbury for some stores which they had disposed of there. Le Strange employed his eldest son John, who now appears for the first time in public life, to convey the sum of £60 to the King, who was then in Nottinghamshire; John the younger executed the mission, and the

¹ Eyton, vii. 244; Rymer, i. 101.

² *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. p. 117b.

³ *Ibid.* x. 268-9.

⁴ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. p. 119b.

receipt shows that he paid in the whole sum, representing some £2500 at the present day, to the King in his chamber at Kingshaugh on August 24, 1212.¹

The castle of Carreghova, built mainly for the protection of the silver-mines of Richard I, had been lost to, and won back from, the Welsh more than once; on June 10, 1213, John le Strange was appointed by patent castellan thereof, but this is the last mention of it that Eyton can find; ² the mines were abandoned as unprofitable, and the castle was probably dismantled or destroyed during the Welsh wars of Henry III.

On September 24, 1213, Thomas de Erdington was ordered to let William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, have four pigs, which John le Strange had fed for his own use (*ad opus suum*).³ The Close Roll of the next year contains a list of those who had to pay scutage for the King's invasion of France in his fruitless attempt to recover his lost territories; John le Strange stands excused '*quia filium suum habuit in Pictavia*.'⁴ On August 18, 1214, the King wrote from Angoulême to Llewelyn, Gwenwynwyn, and other Welshmen, with whom a truce had been made, to say that he was sending to them John le Strange and Robert Corbet, that they might swear for the King's faithful observance of the truce; ⁵ evidently in the Middle Ages the royal word by itself was not accepted as being worth much.

The Rolls contain two curious entries with regard to an unnamed niece of John le Strange. On September 1, 1214, the King wrote from Parthenay, in Poitou, to Peter de Maulay:

Mittimus etiam ad vos nepotem Johannis Extranei que fuit cum domina Regina, mandantes quod eam ponatis cum matre vestra, et equum et harnesium ejus. Et equum et harnesium predicte Fillote nobis remittatis per Gilebertum de Saues.⁶

The Pipe Roll ⁷ shows that Hugh fitz Robert, Chief Forester of Salop, had been excused a fine of 30 marks because, at the request of the King, he had taken to wife the niece of John le

¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. pp. 134, 184, 203.

² Eyton, x. 359; *Rot. Litt. Pat.*, 1201-16, i. Pt. I, 120b.

³ *Rot. Lit. Pat.* i. Pt. I, 100.

⁴ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*, 1204-1224, i. 201.

⁵ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*, 1201-1216, i. Pt. I, 120b.

⁶ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. pp. 171, 178.

⁷ 16 John, Salop.

Strange. Eyton suggests¹ that she was probably a natural daughter or a discarded mistress of that licentious monarch : it certainly looks as if there were some special reason for that hurried journey from Poitou.

We now come to the important year 1215, when the barons of England extorted the great charter of their liberties from the vacillating fears of King John. The name of John le Strange does not appear among those of the other barons who were forced into antagonism with their sovereign, and obliged him to acknowledge their rights ; even in this last extremity le Strange remained faithful and loyal to his liege lord. About Easter in that year the King had written to Thomas de Erdington, Sheriff of Shropshire, to inquire what knights of that county had borne arms against the Crown during the late disturbances. The Sheriff could only find four who had remained true to their allegiance. His answer ran in these significant words :

Omnes milites et alii de eodem comitatu per aliquod tempus contra vos in hac guerrâ . . . exceptis Hugone de Mortuomari, Waltero de Lacy, Waltero de Clifford, et Johanne Extraneo qui vobiscum sunt et fuerunt in guerrâ istâ.

King John broke every promise contained in Magna Charta as soon as it was written, and the last year of his life was occupied by rapid marches throughout the whole kingdom, ravaging and destroying, with the help of foreign mercenaries, every town and castle that he could reach. During July and August of 1216 the western provinces suffered from the storm of his fury. On July 27 he destroyed the castle of Hay, and that of Radnor on August 2 ; he passed through Shrewsbury to Oswestry, where he remained from August 6 to 10, and reduced the town to ashes ; on the 11th he was back at Shrewsbury, and finally quitted Shropshire on the 16th. On July 25 the King had made a grant to John le Strange of the manor of Kidderminster, to be held during pleasure ;² on September 5 the King, then at Oxford, sent a writ to the earls, barons, and knights of Stafford and Salop to inform them that he had appointed John le Strange to the custody of those counties as sheriff.³ This sheriffdom he did not hold

¹ viii. 267.

² *Rot. Claus.* i. 278.

³ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*, 1201-1216, i. Pt. I, 196b.

long, if indeed the exigencies of the time permitted him to exercise the duties at all; for the Earl of Chester, who himself had only been appointed to it in the preceding month, soon resumed it.

Happily for the realm which he had misgoverned King John died at Newark on October 19, 1216, of an illness aggravated by the loss of his treasure and regalia in the estuary of the Wash, and was succeeded by his son Henry, a boy of ten. John le Strange was one of the barons present at the council held at Bristol on November 11, 1216, to meet the new King and his guardians, on which occasion Magna Charta was confirmed, with certain alterations, giving it a somewhat less popular character.

The earliest document issued in the name of the new King to John le Strange was a writ of January 3, 1217, to him and his bailiffs of Shrewsbury, ordering them not to interfere with the right of collation to prebends in the church of St. Mary at Shrewsbury, which had been granted by King John to the Archbishop of Dublin.¹ That prelate was Henry de London, who had been Dean of St. Mary's, Salop, since 1203, and had been allowed to hold that dignity with his archbishopric.

In May 1215 Fulk de Oiry, who held quarter of a knight's fee under John le Strange at Ercall, joined the short-lived disaffection of the Earl of Albemarle, so le Strange took advantage of his tenant's rebellion to seize his lands; but on March 5, 1216, Fulk gave hostages and fined 500 marks for the King's favour, and, as a result, John le Strange was ordered on January 5, 1217, to restore Ercall to Fulk de Oiry.²

John le Strange, though he had not sided with the barons against King John, must have steered his course in those troublous waters with considerable judgment, for he not only escaped their enmity, but even received marks of favour from the leaders of the party who ruled the counsels and spoke in the name of the young King. The Close Rolls show that on October 20, 1217, he had letters of exemption from scutage in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Shropshire;³ and that on March 16, 1218, the King

¹ Pat. Rolls, Hen. III, 1216-1225, p. 18; Cal. of Doc. rel. to Ireland, Hen. III, p. 112, No. 734.

² Rot. Lit. Claus., 1204-1224, i. 295a.

³ Rot. Lit. Claus. i. 371b.

sent a mandate from Worcester to the Sheriff of Shropshire and Stafford directing him to give an '*aid*' from those counties to John le Strange to enable him to fortify his castle of '*Cnukin*.'¹ Henry III was then at Worcester for the dedication of the cathedral. On March 25 a mandate was issued to Hugh de Mortimer, Henry de Aldithelegh (*Audley*), and John le Strange, to give safe conduct, both in going and returning, to the magnates of North Wales, who were coming to Worcester to do homage to the King.² There was apparently some hitch about the matter, probably due to the death of Hugh de Mortimer, who was killed at a tournament at Worcester, for another Patent was issued on April 24 to Walter de Lacy, Henry de Aldithelegh, John Fitz Alan, and John le Strange, ordering that two at least of them should personally conduct all those Welshmen, sent by '*Lewelinus princeps Norwalliæ*' to Worcester to do homage to the King on Ascension Day (May 24).³ The dedication of the cathedral took place on June 7, and the *Annales Prioratus de Wigornia* show that among the barons present with King Henry was John le Strange, '*et aliorum nobilium multitudine infinita*.'⁴ During the same year John had got into some quarrel and had apparently resorted to force, for on May 25 a royal writ to the justices of the King's Bench informs them that the King has given leave to W. de Huntingefelde, Henry Luvet, and John le Strange to make agreement concerning an appeal against John for breach of the peace.⁵

The Patent Rolls for 1219 contain an entry, dated July 22, by which '*Johannes Extraneus junior*' with three others is ordered to hold an Inquisition of the Forests within Shropshire at Shrewsbury, for the purpose of inquiring what *essarts*—*i.e.* land brought into cultivation by grubbing up roots—have been made without warrant since the King's coronation.⁶ Perhaps in connection with this duty we may regard an entry in the Close Rolls for the next year, where John le Strange and Thomas de Côtentin are informed that the King has granted to the citizens of Shrewsbury as many oaks from the forest near that town as are required '*ad*

¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. 335b.

² *Annales Monastici*, iv. 409.

³ *Rot. Claus.* i. 362b.

⁴ *Pat. Rolls*, Hen. III, 1216-1225, p. 142.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Pat. Rolls*, 1216-1225, p. 213.

*duos rogos*¹ *faciendos in auxilium ville Salopie claudende*'; they are ordered to report how many are taken, and the King was careful to send a writ in like terms to the Sheriff of the county.² In connection also with this may probably be read a writ of July 1, 1220, whereby the abbot of Shrewsbury and John le Strange were directed to continue in office the 'xij servientes qui constituti fuerint ad custodiendas partes Salopesbiry.'³ To the same period belongs an undated charter preserved among the records of the town of Shrewsbury,⁴ by which Thomas son of Robert Corbet sold to John le Strange the elder, and the whole community of the borough, all the land and buildings therein which formerly belonged to Robert Bishop of Bangor: it has a broken seal, showing the Corbet raven.

During this period, 1219-34, it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish between the two John le Stranges, father and son; in many instances the latter is obviously intended, although the designation *junior* is not appended to his name.

To the year 1220 Eyton attributes a deed whereby:

John Extraneus, lord of Knockin, for the soul's health of himself and King John, concedes to the Priory of Wombridge all the right he had by reason of his manor of Wrockwardine, in that land, wood, and pasture which the illustrious King Henry (II) did concede to the Priory.

At this date John was only *fermor* of Wrockwardine, hence his use of the qualifying words, 'all the right he had.'⁵

A Longnor deed, assigned by Eyton to the year 1221,⁶ is witnessed by three le Stranges: 'Domino Johanne, Domino Johanne filio suo, et Hamundo Extraneo,' Hamon was the second son of John, of whom later. In September of this year the King marched into Wales, raised the siege of Builth, and built a new castle at Montgomery.

A writ, under date May 11, 1223, from the King to the Treasurer, orders the latter to pay out of the Treasury to John le Strange 20 marks as a gift towards the expenses of fortifying his castle

¹ Piles of wood.

² *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. 417-418.

³ *Pat. Rolls*, 1216-1225, p. 240.

⁴ *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, MSS. of Corp. of Shrewsbury and Coventry, p. 69.

⁵ *Chartulary*, tit. *Lega Prioris*, No. 9; Eyton, x. 23.

⁶ Eyton, vi. 53.

of 'Cnokin.'¹ This gift, and the *auxilium* granted five years previously, show the importance attached to Knockin as a frontier fortress against North Wales. During the year 1224 Gwenwynwyn had been co-operating with the le Stranges; on May 21 the Barons of the Exchequer gave an account of certain moneys paid to these barons 'in aid for their sustenance in our service.'²

Early in 1225 Magna Charta and the Charter of the Forests were again confirmed by Henry, who was now about nineteen years of age, and a fifteenth of all movables in the kingdom was granted to him to enable him to recover the English possessions in France. The money collected for this tax in Stafford and Salop was ordered to be sent to Gloucester under conduct of the Sheriff and six others, the last named being John le Strange, junior.³ On January 7 of that year the King gave a grant to John le Strange, empowering him to have a market on Friday in each week at his manor of Hunstanton, and a mandate was issued to the Sheriff of Norfolk to carry this into effect:⁴ more substantial recognition of his services was made to him during the course of the next few years.

On August 27 Llewelyn met King Henry at Shrewsbury to satisfy certain Lords Marcher in respect of lands of theirs which he had seized, and le Strange was one of the barons appointed to confer with Llewelyn and to report; he was specially charged to be present, and to send an account in writing to the King of what was determined on.⁵ At Christmas he was further named as one of the arbitrators to settle the variances which had arisen between William Pandulf and Madog ap Griffith.⁶

We have seen⁷ that since 1203 John le Strange had held the farm of the manor of Wrockwardine during the King's pleasure, and that a yearly rent of £12 was due for it. This rent was seldom paid, and was often remitted in consideration of the expenses to which John was often put in providing for the King's service. He was excused entirely in 1204 and 1205; in 1209 he owed £48 for four years' arrears, of which he was excused one half. The accounts

¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. 545a.

² *Rot. Lit. Claus.* i. 602a.

³ *Ibid.* ii. 74b.

⁴ *Ibid.* ii. 11b.

⁵ *Ibid.* ii. 154-5.

⁶ *Ibid.* ii. 206.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 70.

for the next few years are not regularly kept, and for 1215-1217 there are no entries at all. At Michaelmas, 1226, his arrears amounted to £163, besides £12 for the current year's farm.¹ The subjoined translation from the Close Rolls shows that not only did the King forgive him the whole debt, equivalent to £7,875 to-day, but also bestowed the manor on him rent free during pleasure :

29 August 1226. SALOP.

The King to his Barons of the Exchequer. Know ye that, on account of the faithful service which John le Strange, senior, did to King John our father in his time, and to us in our time, and on account of the great expenses which at the aforesaid times he had, and for the losses suffered by him in the service of our father and ourselves, we have pardoned to the said John the debt which was demanded of him by our Exchequer for the farm of the vill of Wrockwardine from the time of our father, when that vill was in the hands of John himself from his bailiwick, and afterwards from our time. We also grant to him that he shall have the said vill with its appurtenances to sustain him in our service during our pleasure. And therefore we command you to cause the said John to be acquitted of the said debt, and that you should allow him to hold the said vill as aforesaid.²

This grant, to be held during pleasure, was enlarged two years later into a grant for life, by a Close Writ dated May 17, 1228.³ It is also entered on the Patent Rolls of the same date, wherein the grant is stated to be made 'pro bono et fideli servicio quod dilectus et fidelis noster Johannes le Estrange fecit domino J. regi, patri nostro et nobis.'⁴ A grant for life however, was, as Eyton points out,⁵ of small value to John le Strange, who was then upwards of seventy years of age ; but, three years later, the King further enlarged the gift to his faithful old servant : the Charter Rolls of May 25, 1231, contain a grant to 'John le Estraunge' the younger *and his heirs* of the manor of Wrockwardine to hold by rendering yearly the farm of £8 by his own hand at the Exchequer, quit of all tallages.⁶ It is clear from these documents that the grant of the manor of Wrockwardine was at first to be held only during pleasure, that it was subsequently enlarged to one for life, and, finally, was granted to John junior and his

¹ Eyton, ix. 21.

³ C.Cl.R., 1227-1231, p. 50.

⁵ Eyton, ix. 22.

² Rot. Lit. Claus., ii. 135a.

⁴ C.P.R., 1225-1232, p. 189.

⁶ C.Ch.R., 1226-1257, i. 132.

heirs, to be held during the lifetime of his father in fee, by which arrangement he escaped the necessity of paying relief for the manor on his father's death.

On August 28, 1228, John le Strange and three others were appointed justiciaries to hold an assize at Shrewsbury concerning a suit between Adam de Bessin and Ralph de la Lawe about the *exaltatione cujusdam stagni*. The Chartulary of Lilleshall Abbey contains a transcript of a deed, the original of which is at Trent-ham, which Eyton¹ assigns to about this date; it is a confirmation by John le Strange, junior, of a grant to the canons of that place, made by his father, of a virgate of land in Webscott, a member of Middle; it is rubricated in the Chartulary as having been given 'domui de Lilleshull pro morte cujusdam hominis'; *i.e.* it was a sort of composition or atonement for some act of homicide.

In the year 1230 Henry III made an attempt to recover some of the French provinces which his father had lost; he crossed over to Brittany in May with a large force, and marched through Anjou to Poitou and Gascony, where he received the homage of the people, returning to England in October. On this expedition he was accompanied by John le Strange, junior, as is shown by *letters of protection* (which insured the immunity of his estates from claims on behalf of the Crown during his absence) granted to him by the King at Portsmouth on April 20; they state that 'in servitium nostrum nobiscum ad partes transmarinas profectus est'²; similar letters were granted on June 15 to 'Rogerio Spreng-hoese, qui est cum Johanne Extraneo.'³

Early in the year 1232, viz. on January 23, the King assigned John le Strange and John Fitz Alan to receive satisfaction from Llewelyn for infractions of the truce;⁴ a later entry makes it clear that it was the son, not the father; for on February 20 the King wrote to Llewelyn that he had lately sent John Fitz Alan and '*Johannem Extraneum juniorem*' to obtain satisfaction from the Welsh prince.⁵ Two more entries of December of this year in all probability relate to John the younger; on the 17th of

¹ Eyton, x. 26.

² *Pat. Rolls*, 1225-1232, pp. 357-8.

³ *Ibid.* p. 380.

⁴ *Close Rolls*, 1231-1234, p. 127.

⁵ *Close Rolls*, 1231-1234, p. 127.

that month a mandate was sent to 'John le Estraunge' to deliver the son of Eineon Vychan (or Vaughan) in exchange for certain hostages; ¹ and on the 23rd he had another mandate to release certain other hostages of William de Braosa.² John le Strange had probably been appointed constable of Montgomery Castle when the King quarrelled with Hubert de Burgh in 1232; at any rate it was in his keeping in the following year, for on June 15, 1233, the King sent a mandate to him from Worcester to deliver the custody of the castles of Montgomery and Sneth to William de Boeles.³

The above is the last entry that I have found relating to John le Strange (II), or to his son during his father's lifetime. Eyton ⁴ places the father's death as c. 1237-38, basing his deduction from an entry in the *Originalia Roll* of those years, whereby the son stipulates 'in the King's presence to satisfy the King touching his *Relief* according to the judgment of the King's Court'; but evidence has, since Eyton's time, come to light which proves that he died at least three years earlier.

My attention was called in March 1909 by Miss Florentia Herbert to a document which she had found while writing a history of Wrockwardine.⁵ This was a Close Roll of 18 Hen. III, m. 31, showing that John le Strange did homage for the lands which his father held in chief. This I was at once able to confirm by the printed Close Rolls of Henry III, 1231-1234, pp. 369-370, published in 1902. The entry there states that, on January 20, 1234, the King took the homage of John le Strange for the lands and tenements of which John his father was seised on the day of his death; and there is a mandate to the Sheriff of Shropshire ordering him to cause the said John to have full seisin of these lands, inasmuch as the King has pardoned him the Relief due therefrom. We may therefore place the close of the long life of

¹ C.P.R., 1232-1247, p. 6.

² *Close Rolls*, 1231-1234, p. 175. *Mem.*—Up to 1232 the *Patent Roll*, and up to 1242 the *Close Roll* of Henry III is printed in full. After those dates the references are to the *Calendars* thereof.

³ C.P.R., 1232-1247, p. 18.

⁴ ix. 23; x. 270.

⁵ *Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological Society*, 3rd Series, x. pp. 201-248, and xi. pp. 191-231.

John le Strange (II) as having occurred at the end of 1233, or the beginning of 1234. He must have been about eighty years of age, for sixty of which he had been in public life; the trusted servant successively of Henry II, Richard Cœur-de-Lion, John, and Henry III; he never wavered in his staunch allegiance to each of them; faithful even to King John when almost all his other vassals rebelled against him. John le Strange served his sovereign loyally, yet in such a manner as to preserve the respect of his fellow barons, and to retain and even to increase the authority which, by common consent, was committed to him on the Welsh border. Like his father, he was open-handed in his donations to the Church, especially in association with his suzerains, the fitz Alans. The researches of Eyton show how much the monasteries of Shrewsbury, Lilleshall, Wombridge, and, above all, Haughmond profited by his liberality. If not actually the founder of Knockin Castle, he was the first to make it a stronghold of importance, and to take his territorial designation from it; he increased the family possession by many acquisitions in Shropshire, and, in addition to the original fiefs of his House there and in Norfolk, we have seen that he acquired land in other counties, such as Leicestershire and Somersetshire. All through his long life, a prominent Marcher baron, he served in no foreign expeditions himself, but in his old age sent his eldest son to Poitou to help in recovering the lost provinces of the Crown; and he handed on to that son the tradition of strenuous service and unbroken loyalty which justified the confidence placed in him and his race by successive sovereigns of the House of Anjou.

I have already mentioned¹ the name of John's wife as cited by him in his grant of the church of Holme to Lilleshall Abbey, made '*pro salute anime mee et anime Amicie uxoris mee.*' Eyton cites, without giving reference, another deed, whereby John gives 'for the sustentation of the poor at the gate of Lilleshall Abbey the chapel or church of Sanketon, with the body of Amicia his wife, when she shall have gone the way of all flesh.'² This is all the mention of her which has come down to us; Eyton confesses his inability to trace her parentage,³ but dispels the obscurity

¹ *Supra*, p. 61.

² Eyton, x. 267.

³ *Ibid.* x. 270 and *n.*

in which Dugdale and Blomefield had involved both her and her husband, by reducing the two first John le Stranges to one person, and confusing Amicia, wife of John (II), with his grandmother, whose name we have seen ¹ was not Amicia, or Martia, but Matilda le Brun.

HAMON LE STRANGE, SON OF JOHN LE STRANGE (I).

John (II) had three brothers, Hamon, Ralph, and William. Of these Hamon was probably the next in age to John, since he appears as an attesting witness to one of John's earliest charters, namely, the confirmation by the latter of their father's grant of the church of Cheswardine to Haughmond Abbey, 'teste Hamone fratre Johannis Extranei'; this must have passed immediately after John's succession in 1178-79.² During the next thirty years Hamon frequently attested his elder brother's charters. Between 1186 and 1210 he witnessed John's gift of a virgate of land in Kinton, a member of Ness to Haughmond.³ Both brothers attested the grant by William fitz Alan (II) of certain privileges to his burgesses of Oswestry, about 1190-1200.⁴ As 'Sir Hamo the grantor's brother,' he witnessed John's grant as 'dominus de Knokyn' of the new chapel of Knockin to Haughmond Abbey, c. 1197-1200.⁵ Between 1204 and 1210 he attested Bishop Reyner's confirmation of the grant by Ralph le Strange of Knockin Chapel to the same abbey.⁶ We find the names of both brothers as the first witnesses to a curious deed, which Eyton places at about 1200,⁷ whereby Griffith ap Gervase Goch granted fishery rights at Ellardine to William de Hadley; Griffith reserved, for himself and his heirs, the personal right of fishing with their own nets, but William was to find a boat. Another grant to Haughmond of land in Linley by Roger de la More, between 1200 and 1210, is attested by John and 'Hamo his brother.'⁸ Between 1203 and 1206 they witnessed an exchange of land between

¹ *Supra*, p. 5.

² Eyton, x. 30.

³ *Ibid.* x. 284.

⁴ Harl. MSS. 1981, fo. 24.

⁵ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 132.

⁶ *Ibid.* fo. 131.

⁷ Eyton, ix. 240.

⁸ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 141.

Geoffrey Fitz Reginald and Haughmond Abbey at Longnor, between Shrewsbury and Church Stretton.¹ Hamon's name appears as attesting a composition regarding some litigation at Longnor, which Eyton dates as having been made out of Court soon after the Salop Assizes for 1221.²

In the year 1200 Hamon le Strange became for a time lord of Wrockwardine. It appears that he had been enfeoffed by King John, before his accession, in the Leicestershire manor of Foston, which grant did not hold good when John came to the throne. Hamon, therefore, in the year 1199, fined 40 marks with the King to have the serjeanty of the forest of Lancaster as an equivalent.³ This also fell through, but in the following year the Rolls show that Hamon made a fresh fine of 60 marks,⁴ in return for which he received the manor of Wrockwardine, which Maurice de Powis formerly held, with its stock and implements, until such time as the King should make him a fair exchange out of his escheats, either for Wrockwardine, or for that manor which the King had granted to him before his accession. For this fine his brother John became security.⁵ This arrangement only lasted about two years, as we have seen⁶ that, in 1203, John became lord of Wrockwardine during pleasure, so we may presume that the King had found an equivalent for Hamon elsewhere.

Eyton makes out⁷ that another Hamon, son of John le Strange (II), and consequently nephew of the above Hamon, was living at this period, but the evidence for his existence seems to me inconclusive. It is mainly based on a deed cited by Eyton as having lately been in the possession of Mr. George Morris of Shrewsbury, a quit-claim, dated in October 1227, from Reginald de Thirne to William de Hedleg;⁸ it is witnessed, among others, by Sir John le Strange, Sir John le Strange son of John le Strange, and *Sir Hamo, brother of the same*; it appears to me very doubtful whether this means that Hamon was brother of John (II) or John (III), and we have no evidence that Hamon who held

¹ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 141.

² *Rot. de Obl. et Fin. temp. regis Joh.*, p. 14.

³ *Rot. Cancell. vel Antig. magn. Rot. Pipæ*, 3 John, p. 127.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 84.

⁵ Eyton, ix. 82-83; x. 270.

⁶ Eyton, vi. 53.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 60.

⁸ Eyton, ix. 82.

Wrockwardine in 1200 was not alive in 1227; at all events his elder brother John (II) lived for six years after that date.

RALPH LE STRANGE.

The existence of Ralph, brother of John (II), is established by two deeds. The first, printed in Dugdale's 'Monasticon,'¹ is a grant of Wentnor mill to Buildwas Abbey by Thomas Corbet of Caus, which is attested, among others, by John le Strange and Ralph his brother, by Adam de Arundel (who was deceased in 1199), and by Fulk fitz Warin (III), who succeeded his father about 1197; Eyton therefore places the date of this charter at about 1198. The second mention of Ralph occurs in a deed, cited by Eyton as between 1186 and 1210,² whereby John le Strange (II) gave to Haughmond Abbey a virgate of land in Kinton, the witnesses being William fitz Alan, Hamon le Strange, and Ralph le Strange. The following may possibly refer to the same individual: the 'Testa de Nevill' has an entry among the fees of John fitz Alan in Warwickshire and Leicestershire, 'In Stretton dimidium feodum quod heres Radulphi Extranei tenet de eodem Johanne';³ there are several places named Stretton in each of the above counties. A Suffolk Fine of 13 Hen. III [1228-29] was levied by a 'Radolphus le Esstrang' against Peter Marescal in Ingham.⁴

MARGERY LE STRANGE.

The only daughter of John (II) and Amicia, of whom any mention has come down to us, Margery, whom Eyton shows to have been the wife of Ralph de Pichford, and that they had a daughter, Burgia, who married Nicholas de Wililey;⁵ in support of this he cites an undated deed:⁶ 'Whereby Nicholas de Willilegh, with the assent and will of Burgia his wife, sells to Sir John le Strange all that land in the vill of Lucam [Litcham, in Norfolk], which the

¹ v. 358, No. vii.

³ *Testa de Nevill*, p. 96.

⁵ Eyton, vi. 273.

² Eyton, x. 284.

⁴ *Suffolk Feet of Fines*, by W. Rye, p. 29.

⁶ Glover's Collection, A, fo. 111b.

father of the said John gave for the frank-marriage of Ralph de Pichford with Margery his daughter.' Ralph de Pichford occurs 1221, and he died in 1252.¹

JOHN LE STRANGE OF RODE, SOMERSETSHIRE.

A writ of December 12, 1229, transcribed in the Close Rolls,² shows that a John le Strange was a member of the household of Hubert de Burgh, the justiciar, who was still governing the kingdom in the young King's name; it states that the King has committed '*Johanni le Estrango, vadleto H. de Burgo*,' to hold during pleasure a hide of land at Rode, Somersetshire, which Robert de St. John previously held of the King's bail of the lands of the Normans. This land had come into the King's hand because a certain lady named Christiana, who then held it, had killed her husband, Bernard, and had fled from justice. The Charter Rolls of the next year³ show that the King had enlarged his gift by making it for John's life instead of during pleasure only, and that he added a proviso to the effect that if he restored this land to the original grantee, he would make it up to John by giving him an equivalent in wardships or escheats. Who was this John? It can scarcely be John (III) of Knockin; we shall see that he was already a knight before 1229, and it is not likely that a person of his age and dignity would be even Hubert's *vadletus*. Moreover, if he had been Hubert's follower, he would hardly have got Montgomery after the fall of the justiciar. I am indebted to Professor Tout for pointing this out to me, and for the suggestion that this grantee must be another and humbler person, otherwise unknown, unless he be the John le Strange, of Fransham in Norfolk, of whom later.

WILLIAM LE STRANGE.

The third brother of John (II) was named William, and of him there is rather more frequent mention, perhaps because he was

¹ Eyton, vi. 270.

² *Close Rolls*, 1227-1231, pp. 273 and 318.

³ *C. Ch. R.*, i. 124.

in Holy Orders. He was returned at the Salop Assizes of 1221¹ as holding the church of Alveley of the value of 30 marks, having been presented thereto by Henry II. He must therefore have held it for thirty-three years at least. The manor of Alveley, it will be remembered, had been given by the same king to William's uncle, Guy le Strange, c. 1155,² who may have procured the benefice for his nephew. The prebend of Alveley was one of two stalls between which the manor of Eardington had been divided when that manor had been granted by the Norman earl, at the time of Domesday, to his prebendal or collegiate church of Quatford, afterwards transferred to Bridgnorth, and erected into a Royal Free Chapel, the collegiate body of which was appointed by the King; with this particular stall was associated the church of Alveley, whose incumbents held this dignity. I have already mentioned³ that 'Master William le Strange, the grantor's brother,' attested the gift by John (II) of the church of Holme (near Hunstanton) to Lilleshall Abbey c. 1178. About the year 1190 William is mentioned in the Salop Chartulary as restoring certain land to the church of Oswestry through William fitz Alan.⁴ The Pipe Roll for 1189-90 contains an entry, under Dorset and Somerset, to the effect that, on the plea of Hugh Bardolph and his companions, William le Strange admitted a debt of 3s. 4d. which he had formerly denied.⁵ There is no other evidence of any connection of the prebendary with those counties, so it may be a different individual of the same name, and this possibility applies to one or two subsequent mentions of William which I shall cite. William 'Extraneus' witnessed a grant of c. 1190 by Hubert de Rushbury to Hugh de Beckbury, the first witnesses to which were William fitz Alan, his lord, and William and John, sons of the said William.⁶ A few years later the same Hugh de Beckbury had a grant of all their land at Golding from Ralph, abbot of Haughmond and the Convent, the first witness whereof was John le Strange.⁷ It was undoubtedly William, the son of John (I), who, in conjunction with his brother, witnessed the grant

¹ 6 Hen. III, m. 9 dorso; Eyton, i. 120.

² *Supra*, p. 28. ³ *Supra*, p. 61.

⁴ *Salop Chartulary*, No. 302b; Eyton, x. 343.

⁵ *Pipe Roll*, 1 Ric. I, p. 150.

⁶ *Hist. MSS. Commission*, MSS. of Lloyd Gatacre, Esq., p. 437. ⁷ *Ibid.* p. 438.

by Ralph le Strange of Alveley of the patronage of the chapel of Knockin to Haughmond Abbey.¹

The Assize of Middlesex of 1198-99 mentions Matilda, sister of William Lestrage, as holding in fee an acre of land at Westminster,² but affords no information by which we can identify this William.

The Shropshire Assize Rolls for October 1203³ record that Christiana, late the wife of Richard de Constantin, was adjudged to have unjustly disseised William le Strange of his free tenement [the prebend] in Eardinton; she was fined one mark, and five shillings damages, and William recovered seisin. He held the benefice until 1223; the Patent Roll of that year shows that on January 7 William de Harecurt had letters of presentation thereto from the King, the church being vacant by the resignation of William le Strange.⁴ There seems to be some doubt as to whether the resignation took effect then, as, at the Salop Assizes in October 1227, William le Strange is presented as holding the church of Alveley;⁵ and in the following year the Patent Rolls contain a grant from the King, on the resignation of William le Strange, maternal uncle (*avunculus*) of John Germun, clerk, to the said John, of the prebend which William had held in the chapel of Bruges (*Bridgnorth*), with the proviso that, so long as William lived, he (John) should receive annually from the said William two bezants by way of pension from the said prebend. The constable of Bridgnorth Castle was ordered to give full seisin to John, he receiving yearly the two bezants for the life of William.⁶

Another ecclesiastical dignity held by William was the deanery of St. Mary's at Shrewsbury.⁷ He is mentioned as such in a deed in the Haughmond Chartulary (tit. Colnham), which also records the fact that he was married. At the Council of Westminster, held in 1102, Anselm had enforced celibacy on the clergy,

¹ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 131; Eyton, x. 367.

² Rot. Cur. Reg., 6 Ric. I-1 John; i. 213.

³ 5 John, memb. 4 recto, and *Trans. Shrops. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, N.S., xi. 248.

⁴ C.P.R., 1216-1225, p. 363.

⁵ Assize Roll, incorporated in *Testa de Nevill*, p. 54; Eyton, i. 120.

⁶ C.P.R., Hen. III, 1216-1225, p. 198.

⁷ Owen and Blakeway's *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, ii. 325.

and assimilated the rules of the English Church to that of Rome ; ' From that time until the reign of Edward VI clerical marriages were contrary to ecclesiastical law, though they were common enough in fact, and often connived at by authority.'¹ The Haughmond deed shows that Alan le Poer, lord of Wollascote, with consent of Amicia his wife, gave to her son John (a clerk) a barn in Shrewsbury which Master William, Dean of St. Mary's, and father of John's mother Amicia, had given in frank-marriage with her son to Alan, John's father.²

William possessed some house property in Shrewsbury, as is shown by a charter belonging to the corporation of that town ; it is a grant³ from ' Magister Willelmus Extraneus filius Johannis Extranei ' to Lilleshall Abbey of a messuage next to the church of St. Julian in Shrewsbury, reserving to himself and his successors—probably, that is, to the Deans of St. Mary's—an annual rent of sixpence. The deed is undated, but two of the witnesses are ' Ricardo le Vilain et Willelmo filio Willelmi tunc prepositis,' who are, apparently, the earliest provosts of Shrewsbury on record.⁴

There are several other entries concerning William le Strange in the Chancery Rolls during the period from 1224 to 1236, but it is doubtful whether they refer to the Dean of St. Mary's or to some other individuals. I subjoin them for what they are worth, and must leave my readers, if I have any, to draw their own conclusions.

On November 4, 1224, Henry III granted to William le Estrange two carucates of land in Medburn, Leicestershire, which William de Fougères held, and later Roger Orget, to sustain him in the King's service during pleasure.⁵ The Barons of the Exchequer were notified, on March 5, 1227, that the King had pardoned William le Strange 40s. which he had been fined by the justices in Eyre in Leicestershire for trespass.⁶ From an entry in the Close Rolls of July 27, 1228, it looks as if this William must have died before that date. The King wrote to the Sheriff of Leicester

¹ Wakeman's *Hist. of the Ch. of England*, 6th ed., 1899, p. 102. ² Eyton, x. 110.

³ *Hist. MSS. Commission*, MSS. of the Corporations of Shrewsbury and Coventry, p. 69.

⁴ Owen and Blakeway's *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, i. 523.

⁵ *Lit. Claus.* ii. 4a.

⁶ *Ibid.* ii. 174a.

that Robert fitz William had shown him that, at the time when William le Strange held certain land in Medburn, a certain virgate thereof had fallen into the hand of the said William, who afterwards demised it as his escheat to Robert to be cultivated and sown; and inasmuch as the King had lately taken this land of Medburn into his own hand, the Sheriff was to allow Robert to take the corn which he had sown in the said virgate.¹

A writ, dated at Shrewsbury on December 9, 1232, grants to William le Estrange an exemption from being put on recognitions, juries, or assizes for two years from Christmas next.²

The 'Testa de Nevill' contains a scutage list of the 19th Hen. III (1234-35) for Somerset and Dorset, in which the following entry appears: 'De xvj solidis et viij denariis de Willelmo Lestrangle in Hoke de uno feodo Morton.'³ This must refer to the same William as is mentioned in the Pipe Roll for 1189, quoted above.⁴

In the 20th Henry III (1236), William le Strange fined a mark to the King for having a record of an assize which Robert Maunsel and his wife Mabel had against him concerning the diversion of a watercourse in Sanketon;⁵ we have seen that Sanketon church was the property of John le Strange (II), and had been given by him to Lilleshall Abbey.⁶

The Close Rolls contain another pardon, granted on October 26, 1236, to William le Strange for 40s., exactly similar in terms to that which had been granted to him eight years before.⁷

The British Museum contains an undated deed whereby John ——— of Estwalton grants to Roger le Strange, of the same place, an acre of land abutting on land of William le Strange, who is among the witnesses to the grant.⁸

A writ of November 27, 1233, from the King at Hereford to the Sheriff of Bedford, directs him to imprison William fitz Godwin and Ailneth' Hert, suspected of the death of William le Strange through hatred and envy (*odio et athia*).⁹ This proves

¹ *C.Cl.R.*, 1227-1231, p. 69.

² *Testa de Nevill*, p. 169.

³ Excerpt. e Rot. Fin., Hen. III; i. 310.

⁴ *C.Cl.R.*, 1234-1237, p. 326.

⁵ *C.Cl.R.*, 1231-1234, p. 345.

² *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 4.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 87.

⁶ *Supra*, p. 82.

⁸ B.M. 56, B 2.

that we are dealing with at least two Williams, since we have just seen that another of the name was alive in 1236.

HENRY LE STRANGE.

Henry le Strange, of whom mention occurs several times during the first half of the thirteenth century, is difficult to identify, and here again there may be more than one individual of the name. A Henry le Strange was one of the witnesses to the grant of John (II) to Robert Hert about *Guards Doverant*, c. 1205, and Eyton assigns no place to him.¹ Henry le Strange attests a charter of Agnes de Brocton, which Eyton dates between 1210 and 1224;² also one of William de Begesoure granting a virgate of land in Brocton to Ralph de Sanford.³ Henry le Strange himself granted to the same Ralph two acres in Brocton, and this deed has a well-executed seal⁴ (of which Eyton gives an engraving), bearing the legend: 'SIGILL HENRICI FILI RADULFI+', surrounding a lion passant to the sinister; this proves that the grantor was the son of some Ralph le Strange, but of which? Ralph of Little Erccall had only one son, Roland, who died *v.p.*, and was succeeded by daughters; Ralph of Alveley died *s.p.* in 1195, and it is hardly likely that one of the Norfolk Ralphs, of Litcham, held property in Shropshire of which there is no other mention.

Henry le Strange also occurs as a witness to the following charters: a grant from Philip de Burwardesley to Ralph de Sonforde of a virgate in Brocton, dated by Eyton as from 1220 to 1230;⁵ a grant of land in Wunedon from William Russell to Ralph de Sanford, c. 1225;⁶ a deed of Griffith de Sutton (whose wife was Matilda, daughter of Guy le Strange of Alveley) granting rents to Wombridge Priory;⁷ a deed of Madoc, son of the above Griffith, enfeoffing Ralph de Sanford in an acre in Brocton, which Henry le Strange held in the Hemme;⁸ and six more deeds relating to land at Brocton, c. 1220-1235.⁹ Henry was also one of eighteen defendants in a suit, brought at Westminster in

¹ Eyton, xi. 3.² *Ibid.* ii. 102.³ *Ibid.* ii. 125n.⁴ *Ibid.* ii. 125, note 68.⁵ *Ibid.* ii. 15.⁶ *Ibid.* ii. 94n.⁷ *Ibid.* ii. 115n.⁸ *Ibid.* ii. 118.⁹ *Ibid.* ii. 125, 126n., 129, 130.

Michaelmas term, 1242, by John de la Lawe, for robbery and breach of the peace.¹

Of other le Stranges who occur during the period under discussion there is mention as follows :

AGATHA LE STRANGE.

On January 15, 1229, Agatha le Strange, mother of G. de Turville, Archdeacon of Dublin, had letters of protection for a year ;² and on February 8, 1233, Agatha Extranea had exemption from suits of counties and hundreds respecting all her demense lands, for three years from Easter next.³

An Agatha Extranea and her sister Sibilla are mentioned in the 'Testa de Nevill,'⁴ under Warwickshire and Leicestershire, as holding a fee in 'Wulfricheston' under John fitz Alan.

ALAN LE STRANGE.

Among some notes in the British Museum (? in Camden's handwriting), from the Register of Haughmond, is mentioned an undated charter of John, son of John le Strange, witnessed 'Alano Extraneo.'⁵

HORMUS LE STRANGE.

Eyton⁶ cites a charter of John le Strange (II), passed, he thinks, about 1209, by which he gave land in Cheswardine to Haughmond Abbey. The witnesses to this deed are William fitz Alan, John his son, *Hormus* le Strange, Warin de Burwardsley, and William de Lankes, whose name, Eyton thinks, is probably miswritten. I very much suspect the same as to *Hormus*. I have never come across such a name, and venture a suggestion that it is a mistake for *Henricus* le Strange of Brocton, whose

¹ Eyton, ii. 117. Placit. apud. Westm., 26 Hen. III, memb. 11.

² *Pat. Rolls*, Hen. III, 1225-1232, p. 235.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 11.

⁴ P. 96.

⁵ B.M., Lansdowne, 229, fo. 103d. to 105d.

⁶ x. 31.

name occurs more than once in testing clauses associated with a Burwardsley.

HUGH LE STRANGE.

Hugh le Strange, together with Henry, attested the charter of John (II) about *Guards Doverant*.¹ In the Pleas of the Forest of 3 John, Hugh le Strange appears as paying 10s. for having custody of Lye, a berewick or member of the extensive manor of Morville, Salop.² The Shropshire Assize Roll of October 1203 records a Grand Assize whereat Hugh le Strange, of Felton, near Knockin, was plaintiff touching forty acres of land in Erdiston. Both parties were put out of court by William fitz Alan, who came and proved that the land was in his Hundred, and owed no suit at the County Court of Salop. The name of Hugh le Strange occurs twice as a member of the Grand Assize.³

JOHN, SON OF RALPH LE STRANGE.

A John, son of Ralph le Strange, occurs in 1229, whom I take to be John of Litcham, in Norfolk, as the writ in the Close Rolls, dated April 1, is directed to the sheriff of that county; it orders him to pay to John le Strange annually during pleasure £4, which Simon fitz Richard used to render yearly to Walerand de Bygar, a Norman, for a carucate of land in Bucgeton' (? Buxton), as long as the said Walerand remained in fealty and service to the King, which the King afterwards committed to Warin de Jermem', who is dead.⁴ The grant itself is given in the Charter Rolls. It states that the rent of £4 is to be held by John le Estrange, son of Ralph le Estrange, as freely as the said Walerand held it, until the King restore it to the heirs of the said Walerand of his free will, or by a peace.⁵ John, son of Ralph of Litcham, was alive in 1293, when he enfeoffed his son John, and Clementia his wife, in the Hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhoe, so it makes him to have had an extremely long life if the John, son of Ralph, who was old

¹ *Supra*, p. 71.

² *Rot. Cancell. vel Antiqr. magn. Rot. Pipæ*, p. 126.

³ *Trans. Shrop. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, xi. N.S., p. 249.

⁴ *Close Rolls*, Hen. III, 1227-1231, p. 165.

⁵ *C. Ch. R.*, Hen. III, 1226-1257, i. p. 97.

enough to receive a grant from the King in 1229, is the same individual, yet I know of no other of that name and parentage at that period.

LE STRANGE OF FRANSHAM.

A family of le Stranges, designated as of Fransham, was settled at that place, between Dereham and Swaffham, from the early part of the thirteenth century onwards. A number of undated deeds from the Castleacre Chartulary, mostly relating to Fransham, and printed by Carthew,¹ are witnessed by Roger le Strange, often in conjunction with Ralph le Strange, whom I believe to be the son or the grandson (both were named Ralph) of Durannus le Strange of Litcham: Roger may have been another grandson, brother of the second Ralph. Both Ralph and Roger are styled *Dominus*. In one deed, to which Roger is the first witness, he is accompanied by 'Ricardo rufo nepote suo.' It has been mentioned in the last chapter² that Ralph took sides with the barons against King John, but was received into favour by Henry III on his accession; the same thing also happened in the case of Roger; there is a writ among the Close Rolls of 1217, from the King to the Sheriff of Norfolk, stating that Roger le Strange has come to fealty and service of the King, and should have letters Close of Protection.³ An early Fine of May 10, 1206, supplies the name of Roger's wife. It relates to 18 acres of land at Gissing, which Alice, the wife of Roger le Strange, claimed as dower in right of her first husband, Simon de Francheville; Roger and Alice, by their attorney, Nicholas le Strange, granted this land to Roger Gulafre, to be held by him at a yearly rent of 12*d*.⁴ On March 2, 1219, we find Felicia, widow of Adam de Welles, quit-claiming, for a payment of four marks and a half, 30 acres of land in Lavingham to Roger le Strange.⁵ A few years later the 'Testa de Nevill' (1236) has the following entry:

Feoda de Ry que Alicia Mariscalla tenet. Agnes Leuwise, Thomas filius

¹ Carthew, i. 130-133.

² *Supra*, p. 50.

³ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*, 1204-1224, i. 373*b*.

⁴ P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 7 John, Case 154, File 25, No. 323.

⁵ *Ibid*, 3 Hen. III, Case 155, File 35, No. 41.

Baldewin, Rogerus le Estrange, et Reginaldus de Dunham, unum feodum militis in Scheringham, Wanton et Walton de eadem.¹

By a Fine, dated at Lynn, on February 28, 1240, Alan le Rus of Litcham granted to Roger le Strange a messuage with 14 acres of land and $4\frac{1}{2}$ of meadow in Westwinch, the latter paying yearly to Alan a pair of white gloves (*unum par albarum cyretecarum*), or a half-penny, as rent.²

Among the muniments of the Corporation of King's Lynn is a grant, printed by Carthew,³ from Alicia, widow of Eudo Arsic, who died September 17, 1241, of land at Dunham to Guywood Hospital, which is attested by Roger le Strange of Fransham.

One of the undated Castleacre charters, an exchange of land between the monasteries of Castleacre and Westacre, is tested by '*Eudone Extraneo*' and '*Rogero filio suo.*'⁴ It is difficult to place this father and son. The name of Guy does not occur, so far as I am aware, among the Litcham le Stranges, from whom I suppose the Fransham family to be descended. Guy of Alveley died, as we have seen in the last chapter,⁵ in the year 1179, leaving only one son, who survived him, viz. Ralph, who died without issue in 1195, when his estates passed to his three sisters, so he could not have had a brother then surviving.

In 1242 a John le Strange appears as holding land at Snoring, between Fakenham and Wells in Norfolk. By a Fine of November 3 of that year he acknowledged 90 acres of land there to Basilia de Naringes (*Snoring*) for her life, with proviso that after her decease they were to revert to John and his heirs.⁶ The next document cited shows that this John was the son of Roger of Fransham. A Fine of August 29, 1244, between John son of Roger and Beatrice his wife, *v.* Roger le Strange himself, acknowledges certain land in Little Fransham to Roger for his life, which is afterwards to revert to John and Beatrice and their heirs; and Roger undertakes that he will not give away, sell, or alienate the said land.⁷

¹ Carthew, i. 82.

² P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 24 Hen. III, Case 156, File 65, No. 798.

³ i. 163.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 129.

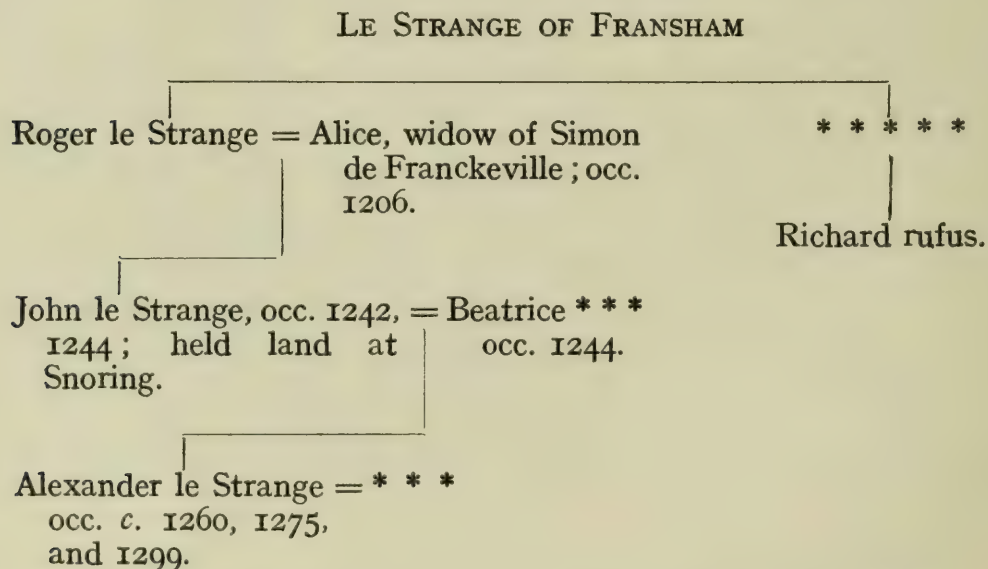
⁵ *Supra*, p. 40.

⁶ P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 27 Hen. III, Case 157, File 69, No. 878.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 28 Hen. III, Case 157, File 69, No. 882.

An undated charter in the British Museum carries the pedigree one generation further: Alexander son of John le Strange of Fransham grants to Thomas son of John, son of the parson of Rougham, for the sum of 50s., three pieces of land lying in the fields of Rougham, with liberty to sell or assign them to anyone except to religious houses.¹ The first witness is '*Domino Petro Romano de Rucham*,' and Blomefield gives Peter de Romain as Rector of Rougham c. 1260,² which approximately dates the charter; this is confirmed by another witness, William de Bressingham, who, according to the same authority,³ was lord of the manor of Brisingham in 1259. Alexander le Estrange occurs a few years later as one of the jurors at an inquest held in the Hundred of Launditch, Norfolk, during the 3rd year of Edward I (1275);⁴ these jurors were bound to be residents in the Hundred. The inquest relates to the manor of Mileham, and it has been shown by Eyton,⁵ and also by Carthew,⁶ that the finding of the jury as to the descent of Alan fitz Flaald contains serious errors. The name of Alexander le Strange occurs again as one of the jurors at an inquisition held at Dereham on July 19, 1299, on the death of Jordan ffoliot of Gressenhall.⁷

The subjoined pedigree is deducible from the above:



¹ B.M., Harl. Charters, 56 F. 22.

² Blomefield, vi. 18.

³ *Ibid.* i. 57.

⁴ *Rot. Hundr. temp. Hen. III et Edw. I*, i. 434a.

⁵ vii. 211.

⁶ i. 9.

⁷ *Inq. p.m.*, 27 Edw. I, No. 49. Printed in Carthew, i. 202-7.

Here, for the present, the line of the Fransham le Stranges breaks off ; we shall see that some more of the family reappears at the same place during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

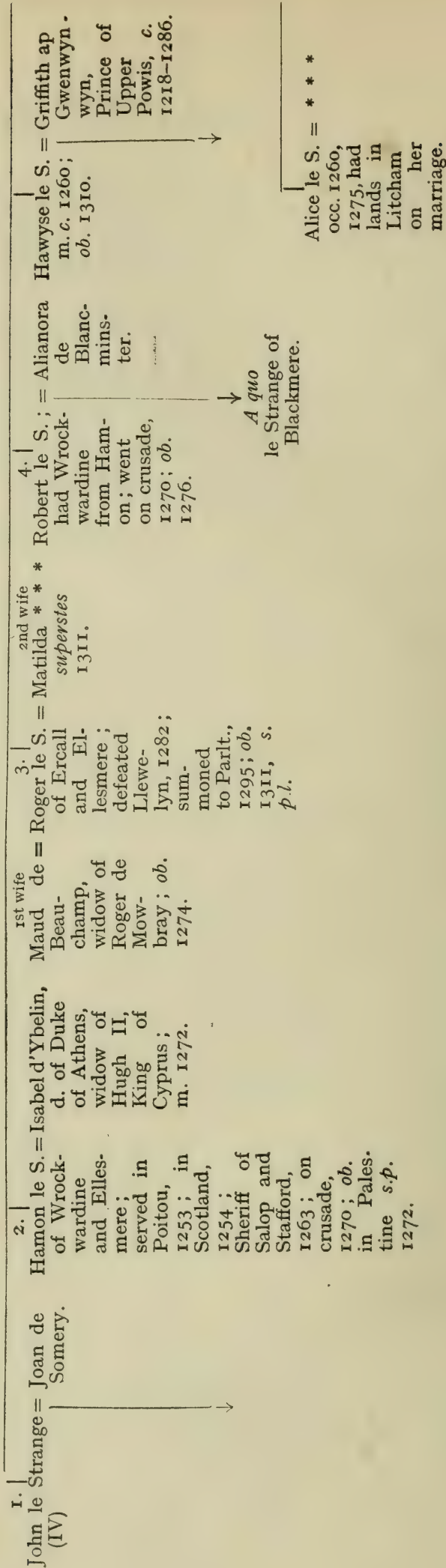
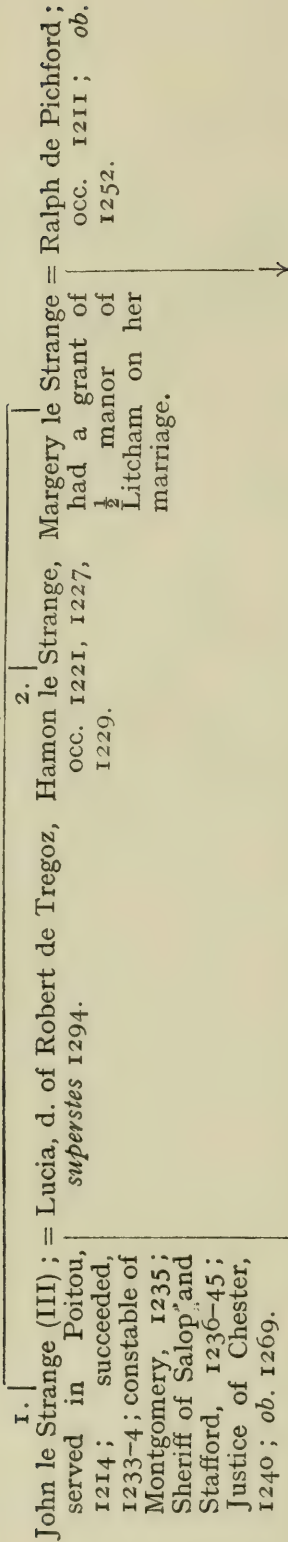
SIMON LE STRANGE.

The Patent Rolls of April 26, 1233, contain a pardon to John, son of Geoffrey de Gipeswico [*Ipswich*], of his abjuration of the land for the death of Simon Lestrangle, on condition that he should stand his trial if anyone will proceed against him.¹

¹ C.P.R., 1232-1247.

PEDIGREE No. IV

JOHN LE STRANGE (II) = AMICIA * * *



CHAPTER IV

JOHN LE STRANGE (III)

1234-1269

JOHN LE STRANGE (III) must have been about forty years of age when he did homage for his lands to King Henry III on January 20, 1234.¹ He could hardly have been less than nineteen or twenty when, as mentioned in the last chapter,² he was employed on August 24, 1212, to convoy to King John the sum of £60, the proceeds of stores sold by the King's orders at Shrewsbury. Two years later, viz. in 1214, we have seen³ that he was with King John in Poitou, helping in the attempt to recover the lost continental provinces; and in 1219⁴ he was ordered to hold an inquisition of the Shropshire forests at Shrewsbury. At this period, as his father grew advanced in years, it is often difficult to feel sure whether mention of John le Strange refers to the father or the son, but it is probably the latter who, early in 1225, was one of six knights deputed to escort to Gloucester the proceeds of a tax of a fifteenth from Staffordshire and Salop. In 1230 John le Strange junior is expressly mentioned as being with Henry III in Brittany, Anjou, Poitou, and Gascony,⁵ when the King took the fealty of the nobles of those provinces. We have also seen⁶ that, by direct grant from the King, he had become lord of Wrockwardine during his father's lifetime. On February 20, 1232, the younger le Strange was sent with John fitz Alan to

¹ *Supra*, p. 81.

² *Ibid.* p. 73.

³ *Ibid.* p. 80.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 72.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 76.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 79.

Llewelyn to obtain satisfaction for infractions of the truce.¹ During the lifetime of his father, and according to Eyton² probably about 1227 or 1228, the son confirmed his father's grant to Oswestry, with remainder to Haughmond Abbey, of the township and mill of Willcot, cited in the last chapter.³ To the same period belong several undated charters, preserved in the Chartulary of the priory of Wombridge, near Wellington, Salop. We have seen that towards the close of his life John (II) had procured from the King a grant in fee of the manor of Wrockwardine to his son,⁴ viz. in the year 1231. Shortly after this 'John le Strange *tercius*, son of John le Strange,' concedes to Wombridge Priory 'the donation which his father had made in the bosc of Wombridge.'⁵ Another deed, which Eyton considers to be nearly contemporary,⁶ relates to the same grant, and mentions the name of John's wife: 'John le Strange *tercius*, for the soul's health of himself, his wife Lucia, and his father, gives to the Priory all such *assarts*⁷ and boscs as it possessed by concession of his father.' Lucia was the daughter of Sir Robert Tregoz, of Lydiard Tregoz, Wiltshire, and lord of Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire, by Juliana, daughter of William Lord Cantelupe, by Millicent, daughter of Hugh de Gournai, and widow of Almeric, Count of Evreux.⁸ The name of his wife is mentioned again in another undated deed, quoted by Blomefield, by which John, son of John le Strange, and Lucy his wife gave to the abbot of Lilleshall their right of patronage of the church of Holme-next-the-Sea, in Norfolk.⁹

The Close Rolls contain several entries showing the service of John (III) about this period. On December 23, 1232,¹⁰ a mandate was sent to him to release certain hostages. On September 3 of the following year he appears as surety for the faithful service of Galfridus de Baucis;¹¹ and on July 1, 1234, a mandate issued to him, in conjunction with John de Monmouth, Henry de Audley, Thomas Corbet, and John fitz Alan, to take possession

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1231-1234, p. 122.

³ *Supra*, p. 70.

⁵ Eyton, ix. 23; Chartulary, tit. Lega Prioris, No. 9.

⁶ *Ibid.* No. 10.

⁸ Nichols, *Topogr. and Genealogist*, ii. 130.

¹⁰ *C. Cl. R.*, 1231-1234, p. 175.

² Eyton, x. 286.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 79.

⁷ Land cleared for tillage.

⁹ Blomefield, x. 332.

¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 258.



of the castles on the Marches now in the hands of Peter de Rivaux, to lay siege to them if necessary, and to give them to 'Waleranum Teutonicum,' so as to avoid the risk of their falling into the hands of the King of France or other the King's enemies.¹ These transactions relate to the King's quarrel with Hubert de Burgh, in place of whom he had made des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, his chief counsellor, and by his advice had garrisoned the castles with Poitevins, des Roche's countrymen, and other foreigners. The custody of the castle of Montgomery had been conferred on John le Strange in 1232, but on June 15, 1233, he was ordered by the King, then at Worcester, to deliver it to William de Boeles.² A Patent of February 6, 1234,³ shows him as having custody of a hostage required by the Crown from his own suzerain, John fitz Alan.

Richard, Earl of Pembroke, Earl Marshal, and other nobles had remonstrated with the King, and, being repulsed, had made a league with Llewelyn with the object of driving out the Poitevins; they obtained some successes over the King at the end of 1233 and early in 1234, and Henry was persuaded to dismiss des Roches and his Poitevins. On July 7, 1234, a truce to endure for two years was made at Mudele (*Middle*)—

between the King and all his men, on the one part, and Llewelyn Prince of Aberfraw and Lord of Snowdon, and all his men and adherents, Welsh, and any others he had in the beginning of the war, called the war of Richard Marshal Earl of Pembroke, on the other part, to wit, that as well the King and his men, as the said Llewelyn and his men, should be in the same tenements, &c., as they were at the beginning of the war, without being impleaded during the truce, amends to be made for anything forfeited in the meantime. No new castle shall be strengthened, or ruined one restored in the March during the truce, and lands shall be common according to form of former truce. There have been sworn on the King's soul that this truce will be observed Master John le Blund, Henry de Audley, John le Strange, and Henry Bagod.⁴

A mandate was issued to John le Strange and three other commissioners to proceed, at the day and to the place which Llewelyn should appoint, to conduct his son David to pay homage to King Henry.

¹ *Royal Letters, Hen. III*, i. 446; *Rot. Claus.*, 18 *Hen. III*, memb. 17.

² *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 18.

³ *Ibid.* p. 39.

⁴ *Ibid.* iii. 59.

At Michaelmas, 1235, John appears again in office as constable of Montgomery, with a salary of 200 marks a year, one-fourth of which had recently been paid by the Sheriff of Shropshire. He had probably been dispossessed by the revolted barons in the King's name under the Earl Marshal, and had been restored to office after the suppression of the rebellion. The same Sheriff had bought four ox-teams for £12, and transferred them to the constable; they were destined to till the King's demesne at Montgomery. The Close Rolls of November 3, 1235, contain a notification, addressed to John as constable of Montgomery, that the King, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his fellow bishops, had ordered tithe to be levied on hay and mills throughout the kingdom; le Strange was therefore directed to render such tithe henceforth to the church of Montgomery.¹

The Patent Rolls of 1236 contain a grant, dated July 9, at Tewkesbury, to John le Strange, constable of Montgomery, of protection from all lawsuits so long as he continues to be constable of that castle.² Another entry, dated two days later, ratifies a truce for one year between the King and Llewelyn, sworn to by John le Strange and two others. On March 6 previous le Strange had been associated by the King with the Bishop of Hereford, the Prior of Wenlock, and others, to act as arbitrators as to the compensation to Llewelyn, Prince of Aberfraw, and Morgan of Caerleon for the aggressions made against them during the truce by the Earl of Gloucester as regards the castle of Caerleon.³ The award was made on the morrow of the close of Easter (*i.e.* the Monday after the first Sunday after Easter) at Montgomery ford over the Severn, a mile below the thirteenth-century castle. It is worthy of note that in this and similar documents the King never acknowledges Llewelyn as Prince of Wales, but always styles him Prince of Aberfraw, or lord of Snowdon.

On October 24, 1236, le Strange was appointed to the office of Sheriff of the counties of Salop and Stafford;⁴ and in consequence of this the retiring sheriff, Robert de la Hay, was, on

¹ *Close Rolls, Hen. III, 1234-1237, p. 203.*

³ *Close Rolls, Hen. III, 1234-1237, p. 342.*

² *C.P.R., 1232-1247, p. 153.*

⁴ *C.P.R., 1232-1247, p. 161.*

November 14, ordered to deliver over to him custody of the King's castles of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury.¹

Under the designation of *Johannes Extraneus de Hunestaneston* he is returned in the Pipe Roll for the 20th of Henry III, as owing 100s. for disseisin—*i.e.* an unlawful ejectment; but a mandate in the Close Rolls, dated December 8, 1236, directs the Sheriff of Norfolk to give him respite of this amercement until the octaves of St. Hilary next ensuing.²

The truce with the Welsh prince had only been made for one year, but in June, 1237, negotiations for its prolongation were on foot. Successive Kings of England had not been able to effect any lasting conquest in North Wales, where they were frequently beaten back; they contented themselves with receiving a nominal homage, which spared them the disgrace of appearing to accept defeat, but gave them no effective control over the country. Llewelyn the Great, though he had married King John's illegitimate daughter Joan, did not allow this to stand in his way; he seized his opportunity when England was weak and divided by dissensions between the Crown and the barons, and by allying himself first with one side and then with the other, made his power felt right down to southern Wales, and created a sense of national unity which had been previously wanting, and which was taken up by his grandson in the reign of Edward I.³

On June 15, 1237, notification was sent to David, the King's nephew, son of Llewelyn, that, in consequence of the death of the Earl of Chester, the King had directed Henry de Audley to stay in Chester, and had appointed John le Strange in his place to conduct David to Worcester.⁴ On the following day the King wrote to Llewelyn that le Strange and others would conduct his envoys from Shrewsbury to Worcester to meet the King there on midsummer day.⁵ The meeting, however, was postponed, in consequence of the King having to go to Dover to meet the legate; a mandate was sent to John le Strange, on July 16, that he need not come, as Henry de Audley, whose place he was to have taken

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1234-1237, p. 391.

² *Ibid.* p. 401.

³ See *The Welsh Wars of Edward I*, by John E. Morris, 1901.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, iii. 6.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, *Hen. III*, 1234-1237, p. 537.

was coming in person.¹ The legate whom Henry had gone to meet was Cardinal Otho, invited by the King, much to the discontent of both clergy and laity. All classes were suffering under the intolerable exactions of the papal see; the country was flooded with foreign ecclesiastics, who occupied many of the best benefices; grievous burdens, amounting at one time to a third of the revenues of English benefices for three years, were laid on the clergy, and the laity were harassed by the growing practice of carrying lawsuits to the Courts at Rome: moreover, the revenues of the State were seriously diminished by the handing over of large tracts of land to religious houses, which, to a great extent, were free from the burdens that the laity had to bear. These discontents had been aggravated since the marriage in 1236 of the King with Eleanor of Provence, whose foreign relations and followers were enriched at the expense of Englishmen by the imprudent generosity of the King.

To return to the Welsh Marches. It is evident that during the winter of 1237-38 there had been frequent infractions of the truce, and that the aggressions had not all been made by the Welsh. On March 8, 1238, Letters Patent were directed to Henry de Audley and John le Strange, ordering them to go, on the Saturday before mid-Lent, to meet Amaury de St. Amand, the King's Steward, and to make amends to Llewelyn for attacks made on him and his people;² these three were directed by a further mandate, dated on the following day, to proceed to Montgomery, where they were to inquire into and settle infractions of the truce; Llewelyn was also informed of their mission and its purpose.³ Further instructions were given to le Strange that, whereas it was expedient to be prepared against the assaults of Llewelyn, he was to provide for the sufficient defence of the March, so that the lands of the King and his own may not suffer; and, if necessary, he was to resist Llewelyn. It proved, however, to be unnecessary at that moment to proceed to extremities, and the Rolls of July 8 contain a notification of the prolongation for a further year of the truce with Llewelyn, for observance whereof Henry de Audley and John le Strange had sworn. The peaceful issue of these

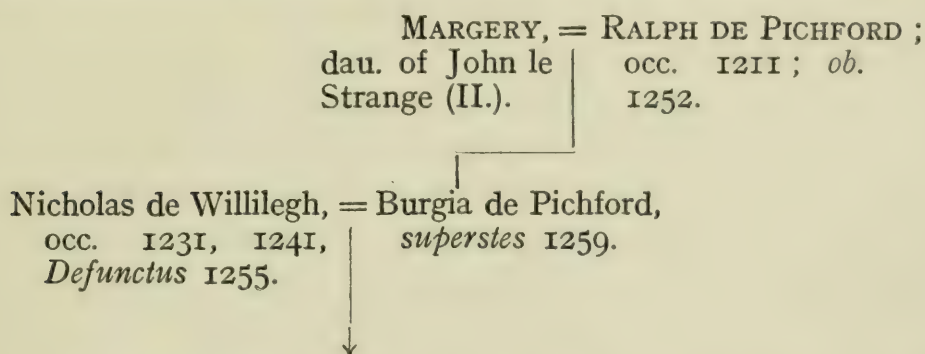
¹ *C. Cl. R., Hen. III, 1234-1237, p. 542.*

² *C.P.R., 1232-1247, iii. 235.*

³ *Ibid.* p. 212.

protracted negotiations argues some diplomatic ability on the part of John le Strange, in addition to his administrative and military capacity.

It is to this period, or shortly after it, that Eyton ¹ refers an undated deed, which shows that Margery, a daughter of John le Strange (II), married Ralph de Pichford, and received as her marriage portion some land in Litcham (Norfolk). The deed recites that Nicholas de Willilegh, with the assent and wish of Burgia his wife, sells to Sir John le Strange (III) all that land in the vill of Lucam, Norfolk, which the father of the said John gave for the *frank-marriage* of Ralph de Pichford with Margery his daughter.² The pedigree, deduced therefrom by Eyton, is as follows :



John le Strange (II) is named in the *Testa de Nevill* ³ as holding $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ of a knight's fee in Litcham of John fitz Alan of the fee of Mileham.

The Chartulary of the abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire ⁴ gives us a glimpse of Ringstead in the year 1240 ; a court baron was held there on February 23, and among the presentments it is mentioned that the church was in the gift of the abbot and convent of Ramsey, and was built in honour of St. Peter. A further entry states :⁵—

Nicholaus filius Præpositi tenet undecim acras. Dat unam gallinam ad Natale pro habenda libera via ad aquam versus Hunestanestune cum siccitas venerit.

Llewelyn the Great died on April 11, 1240, and the English

¹ vi. 273.

² Glover's Collection, A, fo. 111b.

³ p. 289b.

⁴ *Cartularium monasterii de Rameseia*, ed. by W. H. Hart and P. A. Lyons ; Rolls Series, 1884, i. 404.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 405.

cause naturally gained ground for a few years on the removal of so great a warrior. Everywhere the barons of the March rebuilt the castles which had been destroyed by him. Civil war broke out between his sons David and Griffith, and David, to procure the assistance of the English king, agreed to do homage for his lands ; he captured his brother Griffith and delivered him to Henry, by whom he was imprisoned ; three years later the prisoner was slain in an attempt to escape from the Tower of London. The agreement between David and Henry was concluded at Gloucester on October 16 ; all disputes were submitted to arbitration, and David did homage to his uncle ; this arrangement was tested by John le Strange amongst others.¹ David was ordered to come to London to proceed to arbitration before the papal legate, and if he could not come in person, to send representatives with full powers ; he was informed that John le Strange would give him safe conduct.² Two months later the King's trust in le Strange was still further manifested, for on December 6, 1240, he was appointed by patent to the custody of the county and castle of Chester,³ which John de Lexington was ordered to deliver to him, as well as the castles of Beeston and Halton in that county. His responsibilities were further increased by the death of John fitz Alan (I) early in the same year, as during the minority of his son, who came of age in 1244, the issues of the manors and castles of Clun, Oswestry, Shrewardine, and Montford were in the hands of le Strange as Sheriff of Shropshire.⁴ His name appears in the register of the Priory of Worcester for 1240 as paying 2s. rent : ⁵

Redditus Prioratus Wigorniae.

De capella S. Oswaldi.

De Johanne Extraneo in dedicatione ijs.

Eyton points out ⁶ that the effect of the patent of December 3, 1240, was equivalent to appointing John le Strange to the high office of *Justice of Chester*, and that in a palatine county such as

¹ Rymer's *Fædera*, i. 239-240 ; *C. Cl. R.*, 1237-1242, p. 344.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1237-1242, p. 344.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 240.

⁴ Eyton, vii. 253 ; and Pipe Rolls.

⁵ *Register of Worcester Priory*, Camden Soc., 1865, p. 108b.

⁶ x. 271.

Chester, the earldom of which was in the King's hands, the chief representative of the earl held an office more analogous to that of viceroy than to that of an ordinary sheriff. The calendar of documents relating to Ireland¹ contains some interesting items relating to le Strange while he held this office. In his accounts for Christmas, 1240, he enters eight hogsheads of wine from Ireland sold at Chester.² On August 4, 1241, the King commands John le Strange to cause to be conveyed to him at Salop the porpoise (*porpesium*) which the King's Treasurer of Ireland sent from that county to Chester.³ We shall see, later on, that, as late as the time of Henry VIII, a porpoise caught at Hunstanton was esteemed as a dainty dish fit to send as a present to 'my lord of Norwich.' A notification from the King, dated September 25, 1241, states that the Treasurer of Ireland had delivered to John Strange, Justice of Chester, 1000 marks, treasure of Ireland, which he was to deposit in the Tower of London.⁴ A few days later the Justice is ordered to receive six hogsheads of wine sent by the good men of Dublin for the King's use, and three for that of the Queen, and to convert them to the King's profit.⁵ A mandate was sent to the Treasurer of Ireland on June 3, 1244, to pay to John le Strange, Justice of Chester, 600 marks to expedite the King's affairs.⁶ On June 10, 1244, the Justice is commanded to cause sixty does and twenty bucks to be taken alive in the parks nearest to Chester, and to have them sent to Dalkey, near Kingstown, in Ireland, to stock the King's Park of Glencry.⁷ Three days later he was ordered to cause Maurice Fitz Gerald, Justice of Ireland, to have in the forest of Wirrall four stags and six fallow deer of the King's gift.⁸ Nor was John le Strange himself forgotten with regard to these royal gifts of venison: the Close Rolls of the period contain many writs, headed '*de cervis datis*,' directing Hugh Fitz Robert, Forester of Shropshire, to supply le Strange with two, and often with three stags, out of his bailiwick in the months of June or July.⁹

¹ Rolls Series, 1875.

³ Liberate Roll, 25 Hen. III, m. 6.

⁵ Originalia, 25 Hen. III, m. 4.

⁷ Liberate Roll, 28 Hen. III, m. 8.

⁹ C. Cl. R., Hen. III, 1237-1242, pp. 71, 200, 317, 449.

² Pipe Roll, 25 Hen. III, memb. 3, dorso.

⁴ Pat. Roll, 25 Hen. III, m. 2.

⁶ Cal. Doc. rel. to Ireland, p. 397, No. 2667.

⁸ Close Rolls, 28 Hen. III, m. 8.

The custody of the Lincolnshire manor of Bernoreby (? *Barnetby*) had been given by the King to John le Strange on December 29, 1238, to be held by him during the minority of the heir of John fitz Philip, of Bobbington, on the borders of Staffordshire and Salop.¹ Later on the custody of all the lands of fitz Philip was committed to him ;² he appears to have enjoyed them until about the year 1247, but Eyton says that the exact duration of his tenure thereof is uncertain.³ A mandate was sent to the Sheriff of Salop and Stafford on November 25, 1243, to distrain on John le Strange, to make him give an account of the issues of the lands of John fitz Philip which were in his custody.⁴ As late as Michaelmas, 1261, his debts to the Crown, long in arrear, included an item of £153 4s. 4½d., a balance of an account of the issues of the lands of John fitz Philip as rendered in 1247.⁵

In the early summer of 1240 considerable building operations were undertaken by the King's direct orders at the castle of Shrewsbury. On May 3 John le Strange was ordered to press forward the works which he had already begun on the royal chamber and other places there, and the King promised to provide for the costs thereof as soon as he should get to Gloucester.⁶ Another mandate, dated May 18, directed le Strange to lay out on the works of that castle one out of the 200 marks which had been paid into his hands, and to hold the other hundred until further orders. On July 4 he was told to hand over the second hundred marks to the wardens of the works at the castle.⁷ In the autumn of 1240 John le Strange was living at Montgomery ; on September 22 he was ordered to leave that castle in safe custody and to go to Cardigan Castle with the Bishop of St. Asaph, John of Monmouth, and Walter de Clifford, to hear and settle a dispute which had arisen as to the lands belonging to that castle and those of Maelgwm, son of Maelgwm.⁸

There must have been further trouble on the Welsh Marches during the winter 1240-41, for the Patent Rolls of the period

¹ *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin. Hen. III*, i. 317.

² *Rot. Orig. in Cur. Scacc.*, i. 5b.

³ Eyton, iii. 165 ; and *Originalia*, i. 5.

⁴ *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin.*, i. 408.

⁵ *Rot. Pip.*, 45 *Hen. III*, Salop.

⁶ *C. Cl. R.*, *Hen. III*, 1237-1242, pp. 189, 191.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 191.

⁸ *Ibid.* p. 242.

contain several mandates to John le Strange, indicating that the truce, which we have seen so frequently renewed, was but imperfectly observed. On January 8, 1241, he and Henry de Audley were commissioned to conduct David, son of Llewelyn, and those with him to the King at Worcester. Letters of Protection were sent to le Strange on February 3 to conduct, either in person or by one of his knights, Owen son of Hoel and other Welshmen, who were coming to Worcester to speak with the King; and on March 5 further orders were sent to him to conduct David to Shrewsbury, that the latter might do and receive justice for injuries committed by or against him.¹ The wording of this last mandate implies some doubt at least as to which side had first broken the truce.

John le Strange was so busily employed at this time that, apparently, he had no leisure to make up and send in his accounts as Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire; the Barons of the Exchequer were instructed to accept, in lieu thereof, accounts rendered by Philip de Pres and Walter de Kineley.²

A curious understanding, affording evidence of the confidential relations existing between the King and his trusty minister, is embodied in a patent of February 13, 1241,³ giving notification that John le Strange, to whom the King has committed the castles of Montgomery, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, and Chester, has sworn on the Holy Gospels before the King, and bound himself by Letters Patent, that in the event of the King's death he will deliver the said castles to Eleanor, his Queen, to the use of Edward, his son and heir, or of another heir begotten by the said King of the said Queen; Edward was at that date an infant under two years of age.

An entry in the Close Rolls of May 10, 1241, directs John le Strange to send to the Bishop of Hereford, for his castle of Lydbury North, two of the best *bretaschia* in his custody at Montgomery.⁴ *Bretaschia* (Fr. *bretache*; Anglice, *brattice* = boarding) were a movable gallery of woodwork overhanging the walls of castles

¹ C.P.R., 1232-1247, pp. 242, 244, 246.

² C. Cl. R., Hen. III, 1237-1242, p. 279.

³ C.P.R., 1232-1247, p. 244.

⁴ C. Cl. R., 1237-1242, p. 299.

to enable the defenders to throw down things on those assaulting the walls.

Power had been given, on March 5, 1241, to Hugh Pateshull, Bishop of Coventry, John le Strange, and others to hear the complaints of and against David, and to do justice therein;¹ also power to le Strange to conduct David, 'some time Prince of North Wales,' to Shrewsbury. Apparently they were unable to effect a satisfactory settlement, for le Strange was placed in supreme command of the Marches, and a mandate was issued by the King from Marlborough, on July 13, to all the barons, knights, &c., in the counties of Chester, Salop, and Stafford, to come in force when summoned by le Strange to defend the King's lieges of Wales against attack.² His precautions were not confined to the modern limits of the three counties under his charge; as Justice of Chester his jurisdiction was, of course, the palatinate, and, as Sheriff, extended over Salop and Stafford, three smaller shires than they afterwards became. He was also Keeper of Clun and Oswestry (not as yet in Shropshire), and thus had an exceptionally strong position, being practically military governor of the whole north March; he was also expected to keep an eye to the King's interests beyond it, especially in the 'four Cantreds' of the vale of Clwyd, viz. Englefield, Rhos, Rhuvoniog, and Duffryn, often spoken of as a unity, and in which the Welsh had gained considerably under Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, though much was now falling back into English hands. How greatly the Welsh had gained is seen from David's renunciations of territory, made on his submission on August 29, 1241, at Alnetum [the *alder-wood*], near St. Asaph, in the Cantred of Englefield.³

Henry himself came to the March to settle the results of the campaign, and at once approved the policy of le Strange, who had commenced the building of a new castle not far from Rhuddlan, at the mouth of the vale of Clwyd, for which he provided a site out of the lands in Englefield which the withdrawal of the Welsh had left in his hands as Justice of Chester. The King, writing to him from Chester on September 3, says that it is 'well pleasing to him that he should fortify that place which

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 246.

² *Ibid.* p. 254.

³ *Ibid.* p. 264.

he has provided near Rhuddlan,' and he was immediately authorised to expend 600 marks on the works.¹ A further mandate, entered in the Close Rolls on October 18, directs the Justice of Chester to retain, out of the knights and men-at-arms whom he has with him at Rhuddlan, as many as are necessary for that castle, and also for the castle on the rock near that place—*i.e.* the castle of Diserth—and if he has more men than are required he is to send them to the King. Of the victuals sent from Ireland he is to retain sufficient to supply the garrison for a year, and to sell the surplus ; also he is to take £40 from the issues of Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Salop for the works of the said castles, and to get them completed as soon as possible.² John le Strange deserves credit as the founder and builder of Diserth, the chief border castle in this region until Edward I built the new Rhuddlan after 1277 ; the effect was the laying of a solid foundation for the King's power between the Conway and the Clwyd, and the restitution of Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn to his dominions. More was done later on ; le Strange made it possible for Henry III in 1254 to grant to his son Edward lands in Wales besides the county of Cheshire ; and it looks as if he had anticipated the strategy by which Edward I afterwards accomplished the conquest of North Wales, namely, by surrounding it with a girdle of castles on the north and west, having the sea as their base—an early instance of the advantage to England of sea power. A patent of October 29, 1241, directs William le Brun, in conjunction with John le Strange, Justice of Chester, to extend, *i.e.* to render a detailed account and survey of, the King's demesne lands and manors in that county ;³ Professor Tout points out to me that this was a natural result of the wide extension of Cheshire lands due to le Strange's conquests and to David's cessions.

The thousand marks of the Treasure of Ireland, which le Strange had been directed on September 25 to receive and send

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 258 ; and *C. Cl. R.*, 1237-1242, p. 327.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1237-1242, pp. 338-389. See also *Ann. Cambrie, Brut y Tywysogion*, sub anno. *Ann. Cestr.*, p. 62 ; *Lancashire and Cheshire Record Soc.*, 1241. An interesting paper, which tries to trace building on both of le Strange's sites in *Archæologia Cambrensis* (1912). *Welsh Hist. Mon. Comm.*, Flintshire, pp. 20-21.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 265.

to the Tower of London, never reached the Exchequer; on November 28 an acquittance was issued to him for the whole sum, whereof, by order of the King, he had expended 250 marks on the fortification of the castles of Beeston and Rhuddlan, and had delivered the balance of 750 marks to the King himself at Marlborough.¹ On December 2 following he was ordered to deliver up to David, son of Llewelyn, certain hostages as soon as the latter had released other named hostages held by him: the winter season, apparently, brought peace and quiet for a short time to the Marches.²

By the agreement made between King Henry and his nephew, Prince David, the latter had undertaken to restore to the King the territory of Mold, in the modern county of Flint, as well as seisin of all lands captured from the Barons of the March since the beginning of the war with David's father, Llewelyn. On September 5, 1241, John le Strange was directed to receive and retain for the King the territory of Mold, and to take seisin of the other lands and restore them to the several barons, after they had established their claims to them at the court of arbitration to be held at London. In the meantime le Strange was ordered to cut down and lay low all woods, wherever necessary, to secure good and ample passage for the security of the realm.³ He was further ordered, on October 30, 1241, to pay, out of the issues of the counties under his charge, or else out of those of the lands of John fitz Alan (of which he held the wardship), the sum of £40 to Henry de Audley, to fortify the King's castle of Mold.⁴

Early in the following year we find mention of another link in the chain of northern fortresses which was being forged to ring in Snowdon: a mandate of January 7, 1242, enjoins Henry de Audley to deliver the castle of Mold, which he had fortified by order of the King, to John le Strange.⁵ That baron was appointed on February 25 to assess tallage on the King's demesnes in the counties of Salop and Stafford.⁶

King Henry was at this period making preparations for war

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 267.

³ *Ibid.* p. 329.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 269.

² *Ibid.* p. 267.

⁴ *Liberate Rolls*, Hen. III, 30 Oct.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 273.

with France, and was therefore content to patch up a peace on the Welsh border. David, one of the sons of Griffith, and grandson of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, had hitherto been held as a hostage in custody of John le Strange, but, on March 13, the King ordered his release, and on the same day ¹ issued a mandate to le Strange and John de Monmouth, who held the same relation to the King's lands in South Wales that le Strange did in the north, saying that it was his will that the land of England and the land of Wales be common to English as to Welsh to carry on business, so long as his nephew serve him faithfully. A few days previously, viz. on March 10, 1242, le Strange, as Justice of Chester, had a mandate to receive from Llewelyn, son of Meredudd, the sum of £40.²

Henry was desirous of taking with him to Gascony some of the seasoned warriors from the Welsh border; the knights and sergeants in garrison in the castles of Rhuddlan and Beeston, 'except such as John le Strange thinks should be retained,' were ordered to come to the King; ³ and, on the proclamation of war against France on June 8, le Strange and Monmouth were ordered to send '500 *bonos Walenses*' to the King.⁴ On the eve of his departure for France the King wrote from Portsmouth to le Strange that he was to receive 300 marks from Prince David, and to expend them on strengthening the castles in his custody.⁵ Henry had evidently a high opinion of the fighting qualities of these Welshmen, for, as soon as he got to Gascony, he wrote again to le Strange that they were to be sent out '*quanta poterint festinacione.*'⁶ John le Strange was apparently unable to find more than 260 out of the 500 good Welshmen wanted, and he had to wait six years before he got paid his expenses in respect of these; the Barons of the Exchequer were ordered, on July 18, 1248, to allow him, out of the issues of the Justices in Eyre, the sum of £34, which he had expended in conveying 260 Welsh foot-soldiers, and three constables of the same, by sea to the King in Gascony; viz. for ten days each foot-soldier receiving 2*d.* a day, the master of each

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, pp. 276-277.

² *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin. Hen. III*, curd, C. Roberts, i. 371.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 278.

⁴ *Fœdera*, i. 246; *C. Cl. R.*, 1237-1242, p. 497.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 426.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 498.

twenty of them 4*d.* a day, and each constable 12*d.* a day.¹ This pay was very high, equivalent perhaps to 6*s.* 8*d.* a day for the men, and £2 a day for the constables. On the departure of the King for France le Strange was left in command on the Welsh March, and a mandate was sent to all barons, knights, &c., of Cheshire, Salop, and Staffordshire, ordering them, whenever called upon by him, to come to his aid with men, arms, and horses.² Henry's expedition to France was not fortunate; he was deserted by the Poitevins, barely escaped capture, and retired to Bordeaux, where a five years' truce was agreed upon; he did not, however, return to England until September 25, 1243.

A commission was issued on March 1, 1242, to John le Strange and Henry de Audley to inquire into the respective claims of Roger de Montalt [= *Mold*] and David, son of Llewelyn, to the castle of Mold; the result, apparently, was that Roger established his claim, as a patent of May 6 following appoints '*Roger de Mohaut*' to the custody of the castle during pleasure, and le Strange is ordered to deliver it to him.³

Griffith ap Wenwynwyn, afterwards known as Griffith de la Pole, had succeeded his father as a minor about 1218 in the principality of Upper Powys, which lay round the head waters of the Severn, to the south-east of Llewelyn's country of Snowdon, affording, therefore, convenient access for attacking the latter territory; it was, moreover, immediately contiguous to the great fief of fitz Alan, and to le Strange's own castle of Knockin. Griffith did not come into possession of his principality until 1241, when he did homage for it to Henry III; next year he married Hawyse, daughter of John le Strange, and had a special grant allowing him to assign her dowry in his Derbyshire manor of Ashford, under conditions which showed the great favour of the King to the family of le Strange, and the importance attached by him to this marriage; the dowry was assured to Hawyse for life if she survived her husband, even if Griffith should abandon [as at one time he did] the service and fealty of the King.⁴ For some time Griffith remained true to his English allegiance, and

¹ Liberate Roll, 32 Hen. III.

³ *Ibid.* p. 288.

² *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 288.

⁴ *C. Ch. R.*, 1226-1257, p. 266.

his services to the Crown were rewarded by grants ;¹ but we shall see that in the civil wars later on he sided with Montfort and the rebellious barons.

It has been mentioned that John le Strange had custody of fitz Alan's lands during the minority of the heir from 1240 to 1244. Hawyse de Blancminster, widow of John fitz Alan (I), died during this interval, so, on September 19, 1242,² le Strange, as Justice of Chester, was ordered to take all her lands into the King's hands, as her dower devolved to the estate of her stepson, which was in le Strange's custody. A patent of October 3³ directed him to let to farm, as should be best for the King, the demesne lands held in dower by her.

The Patent Rolls of 1244 and 1245 contain many orders and directions addressed to John le Strange as Justice of Chester ; his jurisdiction must have extended as far south as Ludlow, for, on March 15, 1244, he was ordered to deliver that castle to Peter de Geneva, as it fell to him in right of his wife Maud, one of the heirs of Walter de Lacy.⁴ Peter of Genville, or Joinville, was a kinsman of the biographer of St. Louis, and a man of position in Champagne ; he became a great favourite of Henry III. A mandate of May 25 directs le Strange to deliver the castles of Oswestry, Clun, and Shrawardine to John fitz Alan (II), who had now come of age.⁵ Trouble had again broken out with David, who had renounced his allegiance, obtained protection from the Pope, and ravaged the Marches in June 1244.

Two undated letters, which from internal evidence may be referred to the summer of this year, are preserved at the Record Office, and throw considerable light on the state of affairs in Wales at that period. The first⁶ is addressed to King Henry by John le Strange, who informs His Majesty (*regia majestas vestra*) that David son of Llewelyn has retired to his own lands on hearing that the King had sent forces to South Wales. It has been intimated to le Strange that David intended to invest

¹ Rot. Pat. 30 Hen. III, m. 10 ; Rot. Chart. 35 Hen. III, No. 11.

² *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin. Hen. III*, i. 384.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 304.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 421.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 426.

⁶ *Ancient Correspondence*, P.R.O. iv. 4.

(*vallare*) Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn's castle of Walwar, and that the latter is afraid that, unless succoured by the King, his men may renounce their fealty; le Strange therefore asks that a reinforcement of forty or fifty knights with their men-at-arms may be promptly sent, so that the Welsh may see that they will not be left without help if they remain true to their allegiance. David has placed so large a force between Chester and the castle of Diserth that le Strange is unable, without a large army, to get near enough to that castle to enable him to throw a garrison into it, but even if he had plenty of money he could not find, in the three counties (Chester, Salop, and Stafford), thirty men in possession of horses fit to lend help, so he hopes that the King will not forget his necessity. The answer to this appeal¹ is dated from Huntingdon on June 24 [year not given], and addressed 'dilecto et fideli suo Johanni Extraneo, Justiciario suo Cestriæ'; the King thanks him for his unwearied diligence in his service, and directs him to apply the revenues of the three border counties to their defence, for which allowance shall be made to him at the Exchequer; if Diserth or any other royal castle should be besieged, he is to go in person, or to send any of the magnates to secure them. The King intends to be at Geddington (Northamptonshire) on June 29, where Simon de Montfort and others will meet him to consult about the situation, but help cannot be sent until after getting their advice. This letter is endorsed '*Summa M.C.C.C.C. et vli., xviijs., ijd.*' which probably represents the amount taken from the issues of the three counties for the defence of the March. Evidently the Welsh were, at this juncture, more than holding their own.

The Treasurer of Ireland was ordered to deliver to le Strange 600 marks, whereof the Justice was to hand over 300 marks to the Earl of Essex and Hereford and to John of Monmouth for the war in their parts, and to keep the rest himself for war purposes.² Power was given by patent of July 15 to John le Strange, the abbot of Haughmond, and the prior of Wenlock, to make a truce with David, son of Llewelyn, sometime Prince of North Wales, the King's nephew, as the said John thinks fit; and the mayor and

¹ *Ancient Correspondence*, P.R.O. ii. 81.

² *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 427.

burgesses of Chester were requested, in the present urgent necessity, to lend him 300 marks, or even 200 marks, for the defence of the King's castles and lands, which Henry undertook faithfully to repay.¹ It was not repaid until forty-one years later, in the time of John's grandson.² A similar request was made to the good men of Shrewsbury for 200 marks. A notification was also issued on the same day that the King would approve of whatever John le Strange, Justice of Chester, should ordain touching the Welsh prisoners in the Tower of London, provided only that it be in accordance with the form conceived at Nottingham in the presence of the King, his councillors, and the said justice. Two days later, on July 17, a mandate was sent to the barons, knights, and others of the three counties to give faith to what le Strange would tell them touching the state of the March to be guarded.³ Evidently the good men of Chester did not think it prudent to lend more than the smaller sum asked for, as a mandate of August 27, 1244, enjoins on le Strange to repay out of the first issues of the county the 200 marks which had been lent by the mayor and burgesses.⁴ All this does not look as if things were going very well for the King; he ravaged the fringe of the Snowdon country and strengthened his castles, but returned to England in October.

On January 6, 1245, Henry wrote to le Strange, as Justice of Chester, to send on to David, son of Llewelyn, and other barons of North and South Wales, the King's letters, summoning them to appear at Westminster to answer for their trespasses.⁵ It is noteworthy that David is addressed by the King, not as an independant prince, but simply as one of his barons, from whom feudal obedience was due. Two days later a patent was issued to John le Strange and three others, empowering them to make a truce with David, but something must have occurred immediately afterwards which induced Henry to hold his hand, for on January 16 a further patent to the same barons commanded them, if they had made a truce, to let it remain in suspense until confirmed by the King.⁶ On March 6 John le Strange and Henry de Audley

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 431.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 435.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 448.

² See *infra*.

³ *C.P.R.*, p. 432.

⁵ *Close Rolls*, 29 Hen. III, m. 16, d.

were commissioned to treat of a truce with David, and to conduct his envoys to the King's council, but were instructed by no means to make a truce longer than until St. James the Apostle (July 25).¹

It will be remembered that since 1236 le Strange had held the office of Custos of Montgomery, and that he farmed the castellany thereof at a rent to the Crown of £20 a year. In the Pipe Roll of 1243 there is a space left on his roll as sheriff for his account as Fermor, but no particulars are entered except his debt of £20 ; he certainly retained the office until 1245, if not longer, for he owed £100, or five years' arrears, on this account in 1248. In 1249 he was no longer in office, as an inquest was held at Montgomery on January 7 as to dilapidations suffered by the castle, with its chapel, bridges, and other buildings, during the time of five preceding constables, but mostly in that of John le Strange.²

On July 11, 1245, the King having heard that David was laying siege to Diserth Castle, sent a mandate to the knights and free tenants of Cheshire to be with their horses and arms at Chester on Thursday, July 20, to meet the earls and barons whom he was sending to the relief of the said castle ; a like mandate was sent to the Earl of Ferrars and ten others.³ John le Strange is not mentioned in these letters, so perhaps he was besieged in the castle. Two days later, on July 13, the garrisons at Montgomery and Shrewsbury were ordered 'to be intendant' to John le Strange, Justice of Chester, in executing the King's orders.⁴ A mandate of November 6, 1245, to William de Oddingeseles, Roger de Clifford, and nine others, directs them to stay in the parts of Montgomery with John le Strange, without going away, for the defence of those parts from the incursions of the King's enemies.⁵ Another mandate of two days later appoints Fulk Fitz Warin, John le Strange, and Henry de Audley to arbitrate on the claims of Griffith ap Madoc and Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, touching certain lands of Dendover, seized from David son of Llewelyn during the last war.⁶

Some time during the latter half of 1245 John le Strange

¹ Pat. Rolls, 29 Hen. III, m. 8.

² C.P.R., 1232-1247, p. 456.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 466.

² *Montgomeryshire Collections*, x. 83.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 456.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 466.

ceased to hold the responsible and onerous office of Justice of Chester, though, as we have just seen, he was still in the field near Montgomery during November. His successor was John de Grey, who was in office at the beginning of the next year, as is shown by a patent of January 24, 1246, appointing him, as Justice of Chester, with three others to do justice touching tolls and prises done in the county of Chester by the bailiffs of John le Strange when he was Justice.¹

During the years 1246 and 1247 I find no further mention of John le Strange. These years were mainly occupied by remonstrances against the extortions of the papal legate and the encroachments of ecclesiastical judges. David, who had given so much trouble in the Marches of North Wales, died in 1246, and his nephew, Llewelyn ap Griffith, escaped from England and was chosen to succeed him in the principality.

In the year 1248 John le Strange, who must then have been about fifty-five years of age, was relieved of some of his responsibilities with regard to the defence of the Welsh March. The Patent Roll of June 22² states that he has surrendered to the King the castles of Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, and Ellesmere, late in his custody, and that Thomas Corbet had been commanded to receive and keep them during pleasure. We have seen that in this year he ceased to be Custos of Montgomery; he also surrendered the shrievalty of Shropshire and Staffordshire, and before November 1245 John de Grey had succeeded him in the office of Justice of Chester.

On October 26, 1249, le Strange had a grant from the King, to him and his heirs, of a weekly market on Tuesdays at his manor of Knockin, and of a yearly fair there, to be held on the vigil, the feast (August 29), and the morrow of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist.³ This grant led to a prolonged litigation with his suzerain, John fitz Alan, who questioned his right to establish a market and fair at Knockin, on the ground that it infringed his own privileges in the Hundred, and injured the market and fair in his town of Oswestry; Eyton was unable to ascertain the result of this suit.⁴

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 490

³ *C. Ch. R.*, 1226-1257, p. 345.

² *C.P.R.*, 1247-1258, p. 20.

⁴ Eyton, x. 369.

Le Strange's eldest son, also called John, makes his appearance in public life about this time, but the father continued to be employed by the King both in the field, and as a negotiator to settle important matters on many occasions. The inquisitions of 35 Hen. III¹ show John, the elder, holding an inquiry for the King as to the diversion of the course of the Severn, so as to bring it to a mill obtained from the Welsh by Baldwin de Montgomery. The Patent Roll of March 13, 1253, contains an appointment of John le Strange and William Trussel to inquire who killed William de Albo Monasterio, seneschal of William de Albo Monasterio, and by whose command, and who sheltered the evil-doers.² On July 4 he was directed, in company with William la Zuche and Robert de Grendon, to hear complaints between Fulk fitz Warin the younger, and Thomas Corbet, Meredudd Goch, and other Welshmen, and to do justice according to the custom of those parts.³ On August 3, 1253, John le Strange and Robert de Grendon were directed to view the injury done to the King by Griffith de Bromfield in the woods at Ellesmere, and to amend the said injury.⁴

It was in this year (1253) that John's second son Hamon, whom we shall find later on maintaining the family tradition of loyalty to his sovereign during Montfort's rebellion, first appears in public life; on May 30 'Hamo le Straunge' is among those who had Letters of Protection, going with the King to Gascony, for so long as they are in service in those parts.⁵ The Gascons had revolted against the oppressive government of Simon de Montfort, and had been supported by Alphonso IV of Castile, whom however Henry induced to abandon their cause by proposing a marriage between Prince Edward and Alphonso's sister Eleanor. The King crossed over to Bordeaux in August, and Hamon very soon gained his favour; on September 9 he received a patent, dated in camp at La Réole, granting him 30 marks a year at the Exchequer for life, or until the King provide for him to that value in wards or escheats.⁶ Henry remained in Gascony

¹ No. 23.

² *Ibid.* p. 234.

³ *Ibid.* 1247-1258, p. 231.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1247-1258, p. 226.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 238.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 293.

during the greater part of the following year (1254), and Hamon with him, as is shown by his witnessing a royal grant of free warren in Wormegay (Norfolk) to William Bardolph and his heirs ; this grant is dated at St. Macaire, on the Gironde, July 19, 1254.¹ King Henry returned to England at the end of the year, and on his way through France was splendidly entertained at Paris by Louis IX.

During this year John le Strange was twice employed by the absent King on civil business on the Welsh border ; on January 31 he was appointed, with Alan la Zouch, now Justice of Chester, Griffith de Bromfield, and his own son-in-law Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, to hear and determine the contentions which had arisen between the two Welsh princes, David son of Griffith and his brother Llewelyn : ² and, on May 21, le Strange and the abbot of Pershore (Worcestershire) were commissioned to extend and appraise the lands late of William de Braose, and to partition them among his heirs.³

The manor of Little Ercall, now Child's Ercall, in Shropshire, had fallen to John le Strange as mesne lord c. 1230-40 : the feodary of 1240 says that he held Middle and Little Ercall under fitz Alan for 2½ knights' fees ; ⁴ the greater part of the manor had, however, been granted for a term of years to the abbot of Combermere. Soon after 1255 John le Strange made over to his third son, Roger, 'whatever he had in Ercall,' by which expression Eyton understands that he conveyed, not the mesne lordship, but such reversionary rights as would accrue whenever the abbot of Combermere's term expired. The Bradford Hundred Roll of 1255 shows that John le Strange held the manor of Cheswardine *in capite* by service of half a knight's fee ; that he did suit to the county, but not to the hundred ; and that he exercised free warren, and had a park at Cheswardine, by warranty unknown to the jurors.⁵ The Pimhill Hundred Roll of the same year states that in Middle he held five geldable hides of the fee of John fitz Alan, by service of four *Muntarii* ⁶ for forty days

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1247-1258, p. 313.

² *Ibid.* p. 362.

³ *Ibid.* p. 377.

⁴ *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 45, 48, 49.

⁵ Eyton, viii. 13.

⁶ *Muntarius*, or *Munitor*, was a man-at-arms serving in garrison ; his services for forty days were accounted as equal to the service of a knight for twenty days.

at Oswestry, both for the said land and for all the lands which he holds of John fitz Alan in Shropshire ; that Middle owes suit to the county and to the Hundred, and pays 20*d.* for *stretward*,¹ but nothing for *motfee*.² As to Ness, the same survey sets forth that le Strange held there two hides *in capite*, doing the service of one knight for forty days yearly in time of war ; he does no suit to Pimhill Hundred, but does suit to the county, as for his other lands in Shropshire ; he holds a free court and a franchise, the jurors know not by what title.³ The same Hundred Roll says that Ness had been given to the ancestors of John le Strange by King Henry II, and that, by grant of the same King, le Strange '*habuit furcas in manerio suo de Ness*' : *furcas* signifying the jurisdiction of the gallows and the pit ; *i.e.* the lord had power to punish felons, men by hanging, women by drowning.

Hamon le Strange probably returned to England with the King at the end of 1254, as in the following year we find him employed in Scotland. During the long reign of Henry III peace with Scotland had never been broken by actual hostilities, though on more than one occasion a rupture had been very near, owing to repeated attempts on the part of the English king to exact homage from his northern neighbour, a performance of which was as constantly astutely evaded by the Scottish king. Alexander III of Scotland had married Margaret, daughter of Henry III, but Robert de Ros and John Balliol had formed an association against the connection with England, and had practically imprisoned the young King and Queen. Henry went to Scotland and released them from their tutelage without the necessity of taking violent measures ; Hamon le Strange accompanied Henry to Scotland in 1255, and appears to have been left there to ensure the carrying out of his policy after the King had gone back to England. A writ was directed from Newcastle-on-Tyne, on August 28, 1255, directing the Sheriff of Shropshire, 'as Hamo le Estraunge is intente on the King's service in Scotland,' to pay to him out of the issues of the county 30 marks of his annual fee in the Exchequer, due at

¹ A rate for maintenance of the King's highways.

² A contribution to the folk-mote, or Hundred Court.

³ *Rot. Hundred.* ii. 75, 105.

Easter and Michaelmas this year.¹ These 30 marks had been granted to Hamon, as we have seen, while in Gascony, two years before. Another writ, dated from Windsor on April 29, 1256, directed the same sheriff to pay without delay 30 marks out of the issues of the county to Hamon le Strange, 'who has long been intentive on the King's service in Scotland.'²

A packet of old charters, labelled *Bundela litterarum temp. Hen. III*, which was seen by Rymer, preserves a record of border forays in 1256, in which John le Strange junior took part. Llewelyn, son of Griffith, Prince of Wales, writes to King Henry complaining that the Justice of Chester, with other barons Marcher, and the son of Lord John Extraneus, have made many irruptions and attacks on the lands of his vassal, Griffith de Bromfield, and he asks for justice.³ The complaint does not appear to have been made before the autumn of 1261;⁴ on June 8, 1262, the King ordered an inquiry into this matter, to be held at the ford of Montgomery by Humphrey de Bohun and James de Audley, but the result of the investigation is not given. The Welsh, headed by Llewelyn, rose against the oppression of the royal officers in 1258, and in the following year ravaged the Marches as far as Chester. The King in consequence invaded Wales, but retired without effecting anything. On May 10 a mandate was issued to Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, John le Strange, and many others, to aid John de Grey, who had been appointed by Edward, the King's son, to keep and defend the March of Wales between Chester and South Wales.⁵ The situation was now changed by the grant which the King had made of all that he had in Wales to his son Edward; hence le Strange acts as the deputy of Edward and not of the King. It is not clear whether the above-mentioned John le Strange was the father or the son; probably the latter, as on September 15 a writ was addressed to John le Strange *the younger*, and to those who stay at Chester on the King's service, and have protection so long as they be there on that service;

¹ *Cal. of Doc. rel. to Scotland*, 1108-1272, i. 383, No. 1999.

² *Ibid.* p. 398, No. 2048.

³ *Fœdera*, i. 339.

⁴ *Royal Letters, Hen. III*, Rolls Series, ii. 218-219.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1247-1258, p. 553; *Annales Cambriæ*, 92.

they were admonished to give a liberal aid to their lord, as the King was going in person against the Welsh.¹ Before Christmas, Llewelyn seems to have made overtures for peace, as the Patent Rolls contain a safe conduct for his messengers coming to Oswestry to treat with Peter de Montfort and John le Strange, appointed for this, touching peace. Power was given to these barons in conjunction with James de Audley, to make a truce between the King, Edward his son, and their barons and men, and Llewelyn and his men throughout the March of Wales.²

In 1258 the quarrel which had long been seething between the King and his subjects came to a head. The confederated barons, assembled in Parliament at Oxford on June 11, virtually deposed him, and drove out all who refused to observe their ordinances, styled the 'Provisions of Oxford.' The functions of government were assumed by a Council of State, at the head of which was Simon de Montfort, and the King was practically a prisoner in their hands. John le Strange the elder remained faithful to his sovereign, as also did Hamon his second son, but his eldest son John from the first espoused the cause of the barons. An entry in the Patent Rolls of June 22 shows that he was present at Oxford; the castle of Winchester had been committed to William de Clare, who afterwards died, and on the Sunday after St. Peter's Chains, John le Strange the younger came on behalf of the said William before the King and Council, and surrendered to him the said castle, which was committed to Simon de Montfort.³ A commission was issued on July 23, 1258, to Peter de Montfort, Sheriff of Salop, John le Strange (probably the elder), and others, directing them to go to the church of the friars preachers of Shrewsbury, and to stop up and divert a lane beneath that church towards the north, which is noisome in time of heavy rains.⁴

The Report on Lord Middleton's papers, published by the Historical MSS. Commission,⁵ contains a letter of March 14, 1259, from Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, agreeing to counsel and support Edward, the King's son, and his allies, and among the latter mentions 'Hamon le Estraunge.' Mr. Stevenson, who

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1247-1258, p. 600.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 642.

² *Ibid.* p. 660.

⁵ P. 68.

³ *Ibid.* p. 638.

prepared this Report, points out the importance of this agreement 'as marking the gaining over by Edward's diplomacy of Gloucester and his party, thus breaking up the baronial phalanx that had ruled the country since the "Provisions of Oxford" in the previous year.'

John le Strange had two daughters, Hawyse and Alice; the former has already been mentioned as having married Griffith Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Upper Powys; the other, Alice, is believed by Eyton¹ to have been married about 1260-61; he cites a deed, without giving its provenance, whereby John le Strange gives to his daughter Alice, towards her marriage, half his manor of Lucham (Litcham, in Norfolk), together with the advowson of the church. At the same time John le Strange gave the other half of the same manor to his son Robert (the ancestor of the House of Blackmere), saving the curia, or manor-house. These deeds were witnessed by Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, Hamon le Strange, and Roger le Strange, the brother-in-law and brothers of Alice, but the name of her husband is not mentioned. Eyton further says that between the years 1269 and 1275 John le Strange *quartus* confirms to his sister Alice ten solidates of rent in Tottington (Norfolk). Eyton assigns to the same date a deed by which John le Strange *tercius* recovered some land at Litcham, which had been granted by some ancestor of his to Haughmond Abbey; in exchange he gave to the canons a noke (=nook) of land at Cheswardine.²

During the summer of 1260 Llewelyn ap Griffith had again broken out into revolt, had successfully stormed Builth Castle and slaughtered the English garrison; exasperated at this Henry, on August 1, summoned an army for an expedition against Llewelyn; among the knights ordered to rendezvous at Chester on September 8 was John le Strange.³

In November 1260 le Strange and his son-in-law, Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, were concerned in an outrage on a fellow royalist, James de Audley, who brought a suit at Westminster for it against Fulk Fitz Warin. The said Fulk, with Griffith and John, had sent Welshmen on June 29 to ravage Audley's lands during his

¹ x. 274.

² *Ibid.* x. 32.

³ Rot. Claus. 44 Hen. III, m. 9, dorso.

absence at Court ; they burnt three villis, slew eight men, wounded ten, and took ten prisoners, 260 oxen, 80 sheep, and 57 horses.¹ Such were the feuds and disorders which were no uncommon event among neighbours on the Welsh Marches in those lawless times.

Eyton² gives the following quotations from the Shropshire Forest Roll of February 1262, which, he says—

contain certain reminiscences of John le Strange and his sons, which show that the old man was a lover of the Forest and the Chase, and not very particular as to the example which he set in those matters of royal prerogative :

Sir John le Strange, senior, did capture three stags and one doe (*bissam*) in the King's 40th year (1255-6). Hamo le Strange did capture one doe on September the 8th, 1257. Sir Hamo le Strange did capture one stag and one doe on Sunday October the 13th, 1258. John le Strange, junior, did capture two fallow deer (*damos*) on September 15th, 1259.

The war with Simon de Montfort and the barons broke out in 1260, and lasted for five years ; nowhere was it carried on with greater fury than along the Welsh border. The custody of Montgomery Castle, with a salary of 120 marks, had been committed in that year to John le Strange junior ;³ suspicion or proof of his disaffection must have been forthcoming before long, for the Patent Rolls of November 13, 1261, show that his loyalty was distrusted, while that of his younger brother Hamon was relied on with absolute confidence. A mandate, directed to John the younger, sets forth that he has been ordered several times by the King to come to speak with him on business affecting the castle of Montgomery, and has replied that he could not come ; he is therefore commanded to deliver the castle forthwith to John le Bretun, his steward. Another mandate of the same date, addressed to John le Bretun, as the King is informed that he is too busy in the affairs of Edward, the King's son, to attend to the keeping of the said castle, orders him to deliver it to the keeping of Hamon le Strange, and a writ *de intendendo* for the said Hamon is sent to all persons of the castle and honour of Montgomery.⁴ In April 1262, when Simon de Montfort collected an army at Oxford, Hamon le Strange was among his adherents, as also were the King's

¹ Eyton, vii. 186.

³ Rot. Pat. 44 Hen. III, memb. 3.

² *Ibid.* x. 272.

⁴ C.P.R., 1258-1266, p. 191.

nephew Henry, son of Richard King of the Romans, Earl Warenne, and many other personal friends of the King.¹ Henry was at that time in France; he wrote from Amiens on July 22 to Philip Basset, Justiciar of England, thanking him for sending him a report, which turned out to be a false one, of the death of Llewelyn, and he enclosed letters to John le Strange and other lords Marcher, directing them not to allow the succession of Llewelyn's younger brother David, but if the report proved to be true, they were to assemble at Shrewsbury, and to be ready to march at once with an army into North Wales.² Eyton says that although Owen, the elder brother of the three, was still living, it is obvious that the King intended to allow no claim to the principality, but to seize it for himself.³

In 1263 the trouble with the barons was again becoming acute: under the leadership of Montfort they attacked the King's foreign favourites, and captured Gloucester, Bridgnorth, and other places garrisoned by the French mercenaries. Roger Mortimer, James de Audley, and Hamon le Strange met the barons of the Marches at Ludlow, to concert measures against Montfort and the insurgent nobles.⁴ John le Strange the younger was at this time bailiff of Montgomery Castle; a Welsh chronicle, which mentions him under the designation of '*Ion Ystrog*' or '*Ystrans*,' says that he made a night attack a little before Easter on Ceri and Cydewain, but was surprised by the Welsh, who assembled in great force and slew 200 of his men, forcing him to retreat; in revenge he burnt the barn of Abermule.⁵ The Patent Rolls, under date June 16, 1263, record a promise to Hamon le Strange, to whom the King had committed the castles of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury during pleasure, which by reason of the disturbance of the realm he has had to munition, that the King will allow him his reasonable costs in doing so, on condition that he answer for the same, as well as for other expenses made, whereof he had letters before at the Exchequer.⁶ On August 10 a patent was issued 'by the counsel of the nobles,' appointing Hamon sheriff of the counties

¹ *Annales Monastici*, iii. 222.

² *Fædera*, i. 398, 420.

³ Eyton, vii. 27.

⁴ *Trans. Shrops. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, i. 228.

⁵ *Brut y Tywysogion*, pp. 345, 350.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 266.

of Salop and Stafford, which Roger de Somery was ordered to deliver to him ;¹ this implies that the King had again been obliged to submit to the barons, whose party was at that time favoured by de Somery and Hamon le Strange. Shortly after this Prince Edward took up arms against the barons, and several of them went over with him to the King's side ; among these were Earl Warenne, Roger de Clifford, Roger de Leybourne, John Vaux, and Hamon le Strange. Some of the chroniclers allege that their defection was due to corrupt motives ; the author of the 'Annals of Dunstable' says : 'Dominus autem Edwardus interim attraxit quamplures qui prius erant cum comite, per maneria sua quæ dedit eis.'² William Rishanger says : 'Eo tempore Rogerus de Clifford, Rogerus de Leybourne, Johannes de Vallibus, Hamo le Estraunge et plures alii, muneribus excæcati, a fidelitate quam Baronibus in commune juraverunt, recesserunt.'³ Eyton, however, shows that Hamon's adhesion to Prince Edward, in which he was joined by Ralph Basset and other barons, was reduced into writing and confirmed by the oath of the declarants, and that it implies no corrupt sacrifice of principle whatever.⁴ The document, which is written in French, is given by Rymer, and bears date at Lambeth, August 18, 1263.⁵ Professor Tout has explained the significance of this great change of front of the Marchers as a body in 1263.⁶ Up to that time they had mainly been on the baronial side ; in 1263 they rallied round Edward, himself the greatest of the Marchers, and remained his chief adherents for the rest of the struggle. The increasing alliance between Llewelyn and Montfort, and the consequent danger to all the Marchers, largely accounts for the change, though the aggressive policy of Montfort, in Professor Tout's opinion, perhaps does so as much.

In those days, when the Barons who had the person of the King in their power often obliged him to do things contrary to the interest and obligation of the Crown, when even his own son

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 274.

² *Ann. Monastici*, iii. p. 225.

³ Will. Rishanger, *Chron. et Ann.*, p. 13.

⁴ Eyton, i. 282.

⁵ Rymer, i. 430.

⁶ In *Owen's Coll. Hist. Essays*, 1902 : 'Wales and the March in the Barons' Wars,' Essay IV, pp. 102-3.

and his nephew sided at times against the royal authority, it must have been no easy matter to determine promptly and with certainty which party was absolutely and morally true to its allegiance. Allegations of treason must not therefore be accepted as necessarily involving moral guilt, or even as indicating personal antagonism to the sovereign, or to the real advantage and interests of the royal authority. On these grounds I am inclined to form a less severe judgment than Eyton does as to the course taken at this period by John le Strange the younger, whom he stigmatises as a traitor to his King and false to the traditions of his House; and I am strengthened in this view by the fact that, after the final triumph of the King's party, no measures of vengeance or punishment were adopted with regard to him; it is surely beside the mark to say, as Eyton does, that he was probably shielded by the great name which he bore.¹

The accession of Hamon le Strange and the Marcher lords to the King's party in 1263 had an important influence on the royal fortunes, and contributed in no small measure to their final success; the Patent Rolls are the best indication of the gratification of the King. On September 18 they record the grant of a pardon to Hamon le Strange for all trespasses and excesses committed by him in the realm of England by reason of the non-observance of the 'Provisions of Oxford,' for which there had lately been so much disturbance in the country; he was also assured of the release to him of the King's rancour by reason thereof.² A notification was issued on October 8, to him and the other barons who had come over, that the King would cause to be made to each of them a Letter Patent under the Great Seal to the above effect.³ A mandate was sent to them on the 28th of the same month to come to the King at once, wherever he may be in England, as he understands from his brother Richard, King of the Romans, and other persons elected to be mediators of peace between the King and the nobles of the realm, that firm peace was likely to be made between them very soon.⁴ Hamon, who had been Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire since August, 1263,⁵ received a

¹ x. 274.

² C.P.R., 1258-1266, p. 278.

³ *Ibid.* p. 284.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 296.

⁵ *Supra*, p. 127.

commitment during pleasure of the King's castles of Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, and Montgomery, and a mandate was issued to his brother John to deliver the last-named castle to his charge.¹ On December 18 he received a personal grant of considerable value, namely, the manor of Ellesmere, with the castle, hundred, and other appurtenances, for seventeen years from the next Christmas, for his fee of 30 marks at the Exchequer.²

We have seen that during the Welsh rising of 1244, under David ap Llewelyn, John le Strange's son-in-law, Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, remained true to his English allegiance; nineteen years later, in consequence of disputes between him and Thomas Corbet, of Caus, to whom the English Justice showed partiality, Gwenwynwyn was withdrawn from his English fealty, and in the civil wars which ensued he sided with de Montfort and the rebellious barons; on December 12, 1263, Griffith did homage for his territory to Llewelyn, who covenanted to come to his assistance if he were attacked.³

In December, 1263, an agreement was made by the King and the rebellious barons that all disputes between them should be referred to the arbitration of the King of France; the Letters Patent by which Henry agreed to abide by King Louis's decision were witnessed, among others, by 'Hamo Extraneus.'⁴ An attempt was made at Christmas-time to patch up a peace with Llewelyn; a patent, dated on Christmas Eve, 1263, gives power to Roger de Mortimer, James de Audley, and Hamo le Strange, whom the King will send to the ford at Montgomery at Hilary next, to treat of peace with Llewelyn, and to swear on the King's soul that he will observe it.⁵ On the same day these three barons were appointed keepers of the counties of Salop and Stafford, with mandate to all persons to be of aid with horses and arms and their whole posse when called upon.⁶

Some complaint must have been made to the King of infringements of the liberties of the Church, or of the seizure of ecclesiastical property by Hamon le Strange during these disturbed times; the

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 300.

² *Ibid.* pp. 302-304.

³ *Montgomeryshire Collections, Powysland Club*, i. 22-50, from Hengwrt MS., No. 119.

⁴ *Royal Letters of Hen. III* (Rolls Series), ii. 251-252; Rot. Pat. 48 Hen. III, memb. 18.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 305.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 358.

Patent Rolls of January 20, 1264, contain a notification that the King is perturbed about injuries committed against the Church in the province of Canterbury, and that he has promised the archbishop that he will procure that Roger de Clifford, Hamon le Strange, and others, upon whom the blame of these injuries is laid, shall make competent amends before next Sunday.¹ The complainant was Peter of Aigueblanche (Aquablanca), the Savoyard Bishop of Hereford, one of the most hated among the foreigners, and the particulars are recorded in the Household Roll of his successor, Bishop Swinfield, which has been published by the Camden Society ; it contains a statement that in the year 1263 Hamon le Strange, who had been made castellan of Montgomery, had seized Churchstoke and two other villis appertaining to the bishop's manor of Lydbury, which he pretended were part of the honour of Montgomery.² Hamon was not content with seizing the bishop's property, he aided and abetted the infliction of personal violence, which drew on him the spiritual censure of the Pope himself. Urban IV wrote from Orvieto, on March 10, 1264, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to declare invalid the oath which the Bishop of Hereford had been forced to take, and to publish a sentence of excommunication against Simon, Earl of Leicester, Roger de Clifford, Hamon le Strange, and other barons ; they had seized the bishop's beasts of burden, his chapel, and other things, and besieged him in his church, which they at last entered by violence, whereupon the bishop gave himself up to Roger de Clifford, who took him to one of his castles, and imprisoned him there for twelve weeks or more. On his getting out he was forced to give remission to the above persons for what they had done, and, being in fear of further imprisonment, gave a quittance in writing under seal of the Bishop and Chapter, and on his oath. The sentence of excommunication was ordered by the Pope to be enforced until satisfaction was made, and, if disregarded, the lands of the above barons were to be put under an interdict.³ Hamon le Strange claimed to have acted in the matter

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 378.

² *Household Book of Bp. Swinfield*, Camden Soc., 1855, ii. xxii.

³ *Papal Letters*, 1198-1304, i. 411.

of Churchstoke as upholder of the King's interests, the honour of Montgomery being in the King's hands.¹

The insurgent barons were in the field early in 1264; on February 4 the King wrote to Hamon le Strange, as Sheriff of Salop and Stafford, ordering him to break down the bridges over the Severn to prevent any barons joining Llewelyn and besieging the castles of Roger de Mortimer.² Henry had just returned from France with King Louis's award between him and the barons, which was too fair to be acceptable to either party. On April 13 he captured Northampton, and took prisoner there several of the nobles of de Montfort's party. A month later, on May 14, the royal army was totally defeated at Lewes, where the King and his brother Richard were made prisoners, with many barons who fought on his side. A truce, called the *Mise of Lewes*, was made next day, under the conditions of which Edward and Henry of Almain, who had not been captured, surrendered themselves in order to obtain better terms for the King, who was nominally set at liberty, while the princes were confined at Dover. The author of the 'Annals of the Priory of Dunstable' says that, after the battle, Hamon le Strange and some others were allowed to go free, on leaving the two princes as hostages, and undertaking to come to Parliament when summoned to stand the judgment of their peers;³ but it seems more probable that Hamon and his friends escaped with Edward himself, whom they were following in the battle, as there would have been no good reason for their release if they had been captured. If William de Rishanger is to be believed, Hamon immediately went back to Wales, and ravaged the Marches to such an extent that the natives sought refuge in the churches, and built dwellings in the churchyards; he says:

Auctor hujus mali fuit ille præcipuus Hamo Extraneus, prædo nominatissimus, et alii quamplures, pululante tirannide suâ, laxis crudelitatis habenis, misere debacchati sunt.⁴

Certain it is that the Marchers were the only opponents of Earl Simon all that autumn and spring, that they never surrendered

¹ *Dunstable Annals*, p. 222.

³ *Ann. Monast.*, iii. 232.

² *Royal Letters*, Hen. III, ii. 254.

⁴ *Chronicle of Wm. de Rishanger*, p. 40.

despite repeated mandates, and so became the nucleus of a party which at once became so formidable that de Montfort himself went in the spring to attack them. Edward's escape gave the Marchers the decisive voice in the events that culminated at Evesham.

On June 4 a letter was sent to Hamon in the King's name, ordering him, as peace had been established with the barons, to come to London with all speed, *without arms*, to consult with the other barons and the King.¹ It does not appear that Hamon paid any attention to this summons: he was not the man to walk blindfold into the trap. A month later, viz. on July 7, both John and Hamon were included in a safe-conduct, granted to them and their knights, together with their horses, households, and goods which they bring with them;² unfortunately the entry does not state where they were going. A letter in the same Roll, addressed on August 24 to Roger de Mortimer, Hamon le Strange, and others, recites that whereas lately, peace being restored between the King and his barons, it was provided that all prisoners taken at Northampton should be brought to the King at London, on which account the King had several times commanded the said Roger and others to bring their prisoners to him, which hitherto they have put off doing, the King's will is that they should be delivered without delay, and that the castles which are in their keeping on the King's commandment should be delivered to the persons appointed to receive them; mandate accordingly to Hamon le Strange to deliver the castles of Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth, the town of Bridgnorth, and other bailiwicks which he holds by commitment of the King.³ Instead of paying obedience to these orders, issued in the name of the captive sovereign, Hamon and his friends carried the war into the enemy's camp. A further mandate of October 6 recites that, whereas, when the King was at Lewes, he made Edward his son and Henry son of the King of Almain, his nephew, hostages for the observance of peace; and whereas the said Roger, Hamon, and other co-Marchers have besieged the castle of Hawley, belonging to Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, who insisted on the

¹ *Royal Letters, Hen. III, ii. 256*; *Rot. Claus. 48 Hen. III, m. 5, dorso.*

² *C.P.R., 1258-1266, p. 332.*

³ *Ibid. p. 366.*

deliverance of the said hostages ; therefore the King commands them on their allegiance to retire from the said siege.¹ Hamon was shortly afterwards, in the month of November, concerned in an attempt to effect the escape of Prince Edward, which is thus narrated by Blaauw, in his ' History of the Barons' War ' : ²

The hostage Princes had been moved from Dover to Berkhamstead, and thence to the Palace of Wallingford, which the King of the Romans had strengthened and embellished for his own residence. While there so slack a ward was kept on them as to encourage the idea of their rescue, and about this time some of his devoted partisans at Bristol made a desperate attempt to effect it. Some of these knights were fugitives from Lewes, Hugh Turberville and Hamo l'Estrange, led by Robert Waleran and Warren de Bassingbourne. . . . After a rapid march to Wallingford these zealous knights surprised the garrison by a sudden attack at dawn of day. They were obstinately resisted however, and, to their demand of releasing Prince Edward, the threat was returned that he should be fastened to a warlike engine—a mangonel—and so hurled off from the walls to the besiegers. The Prince therefore came forward on the ramparts to entreat his friends to retire.

The winter campaign of de Montfort against the Mortimers and other barons of the March was so successful that they purchased peace by undertaking to leave the country and go to Ireland for a year. A mandate, issued in the King's name from Shrewsbury on December 15, 1264, to Hamon le Strange, John de Turberville, and other Marchers, warns them that, whereas Roger de Mortimer, Roger de Clifford, and Roger de Leybourne, for themselves and their fellow-Marchers, had entered into a form of peace with the King, and had gone to Kenilworth to confirm it, the King was exceedingly amazed that the said Hamon and others permitted their men to plunder and commit damage ; wherefore he commands them to cause their men to desist from such, lest he should have to lay his hand upon them otherwise.³ This mandate was followed five days later by another, commanding Hamon to deliver up to Ralph Basset of Drayton, one of de Montfort's principal supporters, the castle of Shrewsbury, with the wines, victuals, armour, and other stock therein : ⁴ de Montfort, though dating his mandates in the King's name from the town

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1258–1266, p. 374.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1258–1266, p. 415.

² Second ed. 1871, p. 241.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 397.

of Shrewsbury, was not yet in possession of the castle, which was still held by Hamon le Strange. In the early days of 1265 arrangements were made by de Montfort for sending off Mortimer, le Strange, and the royalist barons of the Marches to Ireland; a letter of safe-conduct was issued in the King's name from Windsor on January 2, to hold good until Easter, and for one year afterwards, for Roger de Mortimer, Roger de Clifford, Roger de Leybourne, Hamon le Strange, and Hugh de Turberville, and the knights, esquires, and others going with them to Ireland, with their households, harness, and goods, so that after this term they may safely return to England and dwell in their own parts at the lands which they have of their inheritance, with protection for their lands and other possessions.¹ It looks as if some question had arisen as to the validity of these terms, for the Patent Roll of the same date contains a second letter of safe-conduct, as above provided, which is written and sealed by the King and his barons.² The royalist Marchers, however, showed no disposition to take themselves off to Ireland. The castle of Montgomery was held at this time by Adam fitz Philip, to whom it had been committed by Edward before the battle of Lewes. The custody thereof was transferred on March 7 'by the counsel of the magnates of the council' to Hamon's eldest brother John; fitz Philip was ordered to deliver it to him, and John was directed, as soon as he received the said castle, to come to the King, wherever he might be, to speak with him on special business; ³ *i.e.*, as Eyton puts it,⁴ he was to come to Simon de Montfort and plot treason. Meanwhile fresh efforts were made by the insurgent barons to get the five lords Marcher out of the way; a patent of March 17 states that, although they did not cross over to Ireland at the time which was appointed, the King nevertheless wills that they have safe-conduct in going and staying there for the said term, saving, after the said term, the covenants which they made at Worcester.⁵ Things were not going so well for the barons; not only did Hamon and his friends decline to go to Ireland, but fitz Philip would not deliver up Montgomery Castle without special orders

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 398.

² *Ibid.* p. 399.

³ *Ibid.* p. 411.

⁴ Eyton, x. 273.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 415.

from Edward. A peremptory mandate was thereon directed to fitz Philip on April 2, ordering him on his allegiance, and with the assent of Edward, to hand over the custody of the castle without further delay.¹ Shrewsbury Castle had been delivered up by Hamon le Strange to Ralph Basset, but the latter was in a very precarious position ; Leicester with the captive King and his son Edward had advanced to Gloucester, but the country west of the Severn was in the hands of the King's friends. A mandate of May 6 from Gloucester to Ralph Basset, constable of the castle of Shrewsbury, directs him to maintain the said castle with his men, as the disturbance in the realm is not yet settled in those parts, and the King will cause the cost thereof to be repaid to him ; and as Hamon le Strange and his fautors wish to attract certain rebels to him against the King, he is to bring all of those parts back to unity and concord, and to take into the King's hands the goods of all contrariants.² Besides Hamon, two of his younger brothers, Roger, afterwards of Ellesmere, and Robert, ancestor of the House of Blackmere, were in arms under the Earl of Gloucester (Gilbert de Clare) against the Earl of Leicester. One of the latter's patents, marked on the Roll as having been issued '*Rege Captivo*,' announced to the sheriffs of counties on May 20 that peace and unity had been proclaimed throughout the whole kingdom between the two earls, but because Roger de Clifford, Hamon le Strange, his brother Roger, and other Marchers have not left the kingdom in accordance with the ordinance of Worcester, if any of them stir up disaffection they are to be arrested at once.³ A week after this, namely, on May 28, Prince Edward escaped from his guards by a stratagem, and joined the army of the Earl of Gloucester, who immediately raised the royal banner. The battle of Evesham, fought on August 4, 1265, restored the authority of King Henry and cost de Montfort his life. In all probability Hamon was present at the battle, as only four days after it he received a grant of the wardship of the land and heirs of Fulk fitz Warin, who had fallen the year before fighting for the King at the battle of Lewes.⁴

¹ Pat. Roll, 49 Hen. III, No. 77.

³ Pat. Roll, 49 Hen. III, m. 15.

² C.P.R., 1258-1266, p. 422.

⁴ C.P.R., 1258-1266, p. 435.

We learn from the author of the 'Annals of Waverley' that Hamon le Strange and Maurice fitz Gerald were sent against Llewelyn, who had made a raid into Cheshire in December. The chronicler says that the two English knights were put to flight, and escaped with difficulty, while many of their men were slain.¹ The citizens of London had been strong adherents of de Montfort's party, and many of them consequently suffered forfeiture after his downfall, their possessions being conferred on the supporters of the royal cause. Amongst these Hamon le Strange had a grant, on October 19, 'to him and his heirs of the houses with their appurtenances and rents in the City of London, late of John Everard, sometime citizen of London, the King's enemy, so that he do the due and accustomed service.'² Apparently he had repossessed himself of the castle of Shrewsbury soon after the battle of Evesham, as he was ordered on November 25, 1265, to hand on that castle to Thomas Corbet, who succeeded him in the office of Sheriff of Salop and Stafford.³ A commission was issued on February 3, 1266, to Giles de Erdington to inquire what malefactors assaulted and killed the men of Hamon le Strange at Leicester and Kilworth.⁴

Among the supporters of Simon de Montfort was Walter de Mucegros, who died in 1264, possessed of considerable estates in Herefordshire. The writ for the inquisition on his death was dated December 2, 1264, but the inquisition itself was not held until February 5 following; the jurors say that the King has no seisin in the lands held by him, because John le Strange the younger holds them by force, and will not permit anyone to have seisin in the King's name.⁵ It seems that John had some right to deal with these manors, as a patent of June 4, 1266, confirms a grant made by him, as one of the executors of the will of Walter de Mucegros, to Walter de Clifford,⁶ but whether the executor was John the elder, or the younger, is not specified. Anyhow, it is clear that, after the battle of Evesham, all the lands which had belonged to W. de Mucegros were given to John le

¹ *Ann. Monast.* ii. 366.

³ *Ibid.* p. 511.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m., Hen. III, No. 606, i. 192.*

² *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 468.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 654.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 602.

Strange.¹ Eyton takes it for granted that this was John the elder ;² and, indeed, it is not likely that it was his son, who certainly had not contributed to the overthrow of Simon de Montfort.

A curious little story, showing how John le Strange's Norfolk property was affected by the political disturbances, has come down to us through a presentation of the jury of the hundred of Hartismere in Suffolk, as set forth among the *Placita de terris datis et occupatis occasione turbacionis in regno Anglie*. The jury say that John de Stratton bought of William de Hoo thirty sheep, worth twenty shillings, which the latter had plundered (*depredatos*) from John le Strange. Thomas de Brisingham, a dealer living at Ipswich, bought some of them there. John de Stratton, being summoned, averred that the sheep had been taken, not from John le Strange, but from William de Wretham, an enemy of the King, who had always been an adherent of the Earl of Leicester. The jury further say that the aforesaid William de Wretham took possession of the manor of John le Strange in the county of Norfolk, and of all the goods found there ; that William de Hoo was the bailiff of William de Wretham, and that when William de Hoo heard that the latter had been killed at the battle of Evesham, he took the said sheep which John de Stratton bought of him. John de Stratton received a pardon for his share of the transaction.³

Eyton has pointed out that between the years 1262 and 1265 John (III) acquired by purchase from Madoc de Sutton the manor of Sutton, with its members Rowton and Ellardine ; it was worth 50s. per annum ; and was held by the serjeanty of providing four foot-soldiers in ward of Montgomery Castle for fifteen days at his own cost.⁴ Between 1262 and 1267 John enfeoffed his eldest son and heir, John, in Rowton and Ellardine, reserving a rent of one penny only thereon ; within the same interval John the younger made them over to his brother Robert.⁵

The *Dictum of Kenilworth*, embodying the terms on which the

¹ *Rot. Select.* ; *terræ rebellium datæ fidelibus tempore regis Hen. III*, curâ Jos. Hunter, p. 254.

² Eyton, x. 274.

⁴ *Placita Corone*, 20 Edw. I, m. 16, dorso.

³ *Rot. Select.* p. 223.

⁵ *Ibid.*

barons, disinherited after the battle of Evesham, were allowed to redeem their lands, was made on October 15, 1266. They were to pay 'as much as their lands be worth by the space of five years.' Those paying this five years' purchase should have their lands again; in cases where they were unable to redeem except by the sale of portions of their lands, or in some instances of the whole, the right of pre-emption was given to those who were in actual possession by gift of the King.

The younger sons of John (III), and more especially Hamon, shared in the spoils of the late rebels, while their father, probably on account of his age, only received the grant of the forfeited lands of Walter de Mucegros; this was perhaps merely the recognition of a *fait accompli*; since, as we have seen, these lands were already in the tight grasp of John the younger. A grant of simple protection for one year for John le Strange, dated April 20, 1267, was probably for the son.¹ The elder John must have been over seventy years of age at the time of the battle of Evesham, and indeed his name is hardly mentioned after that date. A grant of October 19, 1268, from Sir John de Tregoz, son and heir of Sir Robert de Trezog, to the lady Juliana, late the wife of Sir Robert, specifying certain manors which she is to hold in dower, is witnessed by John and Hamon le Strange; it may likely enough have been John the elder who witnessed the grant of his brother-in-law, Sir John Tregoz.² If so, it was the last recorded act of this veteran, who must have died early in 1269, since the Fine Rolls show that the King took the homage of his son, and gave him seisin of all the lands which his father had held in chief, on March 26 of that year.³

Lucia de Tregoz, wife of John (III), appears to have survived him for at least twenty-five years, if I am correct in assuming that she is the *Lucia Extranea* named in the Exchequer list of 1294-5, as a holder of £40 a year and upwards in lands or rents in the name of dower in the counties of Bedford and Buckingham.⁴ By her John had four sons and two daughters; of the sons, John, the eldest, succeeded his father in the possession of his Shrop-

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1266-272, p. 55.

² *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, iii. 321, c. 3025.

³ *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin. Hen. III*, ii. 485.

⁴ *Pub. Beds. Hist. Record Soc.*, ii. 257.

shire and Norfolk estates ; the second, Hamon, only survived his father for three or four years, so the conclusion of his story may well be set down at once, while that of the third brother, Roger, who did not die till 1311, may be reserved for a subsequent chapter, as also that of the youngest, Robert, who became the founder of the house of the Lords Strange of Blackmere. Of his daughter Alice, who had half the manor of Litcham as her marriage portion, mention has already been made.¹ The other daughter, Hawyse, who married the Prince of Powys, survived her father and her husband for many years, and further mention of her will appear later on.

HAMON LE STRANGE (THE CRUSADER).

We have already seen that Hamon was a lifelong friend of the King's son Edward, from the time when he served with him in Gascony in 1253 ; that he was employed in Scotland in 1254, was constable of Montgomery Castle, and also of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury during the greater part of the War of the Barons from 1261 onwards, as well as Sheriff of the counties of Salop and Stafford ; that he escaped after the battle of Lewes and at once took up arms again for the captive King, and made a bold attempt to effect the rescue of his son Edward, and that he contributed in no small degree to the royalist success at Evesham. For these loyal services rewards were showered upon him.

The Northamptonshire lands of Richard Basset, one of de Montfort's supporters, were among those which had been granted to Hamon le Strange on the conditions of the *Dictum de Kenilworth*. The Plea Rolls of 1267 contain particulars of a suit by which Basset made terms for recovering his forfeited property. Hamon gave as a reason for not allowing the lands to be restored to him that Richard, who had been captured when in arms against the King at Northampton, and subsequently ransomed, had again fought on de Montfort's side at Kenilworth. Richard denied this, and averred that he had gone peaceably to Northampton with his wife and children, and had not borne arms against the

¹ *Supra*, p. 125.

King ; an inquisition held as to the facts of the case found that Richard's account was the true one. On this an agreement had been made between the parties, by which Richard was to have his lands restored to him on paying 300 marks to Hamon in five instalments spread over three years.¹ The same Rolls contain lengthy pleadings in a suit of similar nature between Hamon le Strange and Henry de Longchamp, respecting the lands of the latter, which had been given to Hamon for five years ; in this case Hamon had to content himself with enjoying possession of them for four years only.² A third entry sets forth that the prior of Aynho was summoned for having voluntarily supplied horses to aid the Earl of Leicester against the King ; the prior proved his innocence by showing that Hamon came to the house of the fraternity, and, against their will, requisitioned three horses, of which, however, under persuasion, he restored two to the brethren.³

Another grant made to Hamon by the King was that of the manor of Drayton, in Sussex. An inquisition taken at that place on July 24, 1275, sets forth that Hamon had held that manor *in capite*, but some time before his death had enfeoffed Urianus de Sancto Petro therein, and that he was seised of it on the day of the death of Hamon ; the latter had doubtless sold it to him to raise money when starting for the Crusade.⁴

The lands of William de Birmingeham, who was slain at the battle of Evesham, fighting against the King, were granted to Hamon on the terms of the *Dictum de Kenilworth* ; an order of May 16, 1285, shows that these lands were restored to William's heir after Hamon's death.⁵ A further reward of considerable value was the grant to Hamon and his heirs, on February 21, 1267,⁶ of the manor of Ellesmere, with the castle and hundred, and the manor of Strattondale (Church Stretton), until the King provide for them in escheats to the value of £100 a year in land ; the King also undertook to refund any charges which Hamon or his heirs might have to lay out in repairs.

¹ *Rot. Select. Placita de terris datis et occupatis occasione turbacionis in regno Anglie*, curâ J. Hunter, p. 153.

² *Ibid.* p. 173.

³ *Ibid.* p. 193.

⁴ P.R.O. Inq. p.m., Chancery series, File 11 (2).

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 319.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1266-1272, p. 39.

During the summer of 1267 Hamon was again employed on the Welsh March; a patent of August 28 was addressed to Llewelyn ap Griffith, wherein the King said that he understood, by his letters and messengers, that Llewelyn was about to send certain of his secretaries¹ and magnates to treat of his peace, and to obtain the goodwill of the King, on condition that the King sends one of his faithful to conduct them safely; and, according to his request, the King is sending Hamon le Strange to give safe conduct to Llewelyn, or his secretaries and counsellors, in coming to the King and returning, in their persons, goods, and households until September 5.² This safe conduct was prolonged on September 4 until the 9th of that month.³ Hamon le Strange appears to have played a somewhat important part in the negotiations which, chiefly owing to the efforts of the legate, Cardinal Ottobone, at length resulted in a definitive treaty of peace, sealed at Shrewsbury on September 25, 1267, by Henry, Edward, and Llewelyn.⁴ The latter obtained, from the weakness of the English king, far better terms than he or his predecessors had hitherto secured. He agreed to pay a large sum of money, and acknowledged that he held his principality of the King, but till then he had aspired to no higher title than Prince of North Wales, and had usually been merely styled by Henry, lord of Aberfraw and Snowdon; now, however, he obtained recognition of his title as Prince of Wales, carrying with it the overlordship of all the Welsh chieftains. He was further restored unconditionally to the lordship of the Four Cantreds, which he had been obliged to renounce in 1247, while Mortimer and the English Marcher barons were constrained to acknowledge his legal right to many of their lands in mid-Wales, on which he had laid violent hands during the days of trouble. The importance of these concessions and their bearing on English history has been admirably worked out by Professor Tout in his essay on 'Wales and the March during the Barons' War.'⁵

The grant of forfeited lands did not always enure to the benefit

¹ In thirteenth century language, 'secretary' denotes confidant.

² *C.P.R.*, 1266-1272, p. 156.

³ *Ibid.* p. 102.

⁴ *Fædera*, i. 174, and *C.P.R.*, 1266, 1272, p. 102.

⁵ *Owen's College Historical Essays*, IV.

of the grantees; rebels obtained pardons, and complications arose as to the giving back of their lands. For instance, William le Botiler obtained remission, on March 3, 1268, of trespasses committed by him and the members of his household; his lands had been granted to David, son of Griffith, Llewelyn's brother, who with the King's licence had given them to Hamon le Strange, who in his turn had quitclaimed them to William le Botiler; the King ratified the quitclaim, and granted that neither Hamon nor his heirs should be molested by reason thereof.¹ On March 8, 1268, pardon was given to Hamon, and all those of his household and fellowship, for trespasses which they were said to have committed by occasion of the non-observance of the 'Provisions of Oxford'; the King even undertook to make separately a Letter Patent of this to each of the said household, whenever Hamon by his Letters Patent should require it.² There are several instances of confirmation by the King of restitutions made by Hamon on their lands to rebels who had purged their innocence;³ it looks as if these lands had been given to a friend to hold until matters could be arranged.

In spite of these grants of lands, and of the monies received for their redemption, Hamon was reduced to the necessity of borrowing from the Jews. On October 24, 1268, he executed a bond, in which he is described as of the county of Hereford, to Hagim, son of Master Mosseus, the Jew, for fifty marks, to be repaid at Michaelmas next.⁴

By charter from Edmund [Crouchback], the King's youngest son, dated November 7, 1268, Hamon received a grant of half a virgate of land in Penkhull, in the manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, with the advowson of the church of Stoke, to be held by him, his heirs or assigns, or any religious house to whom he may give or assign the same, by rendering yearly at Easter one penny.⁵ The *Testa de Nevill* shows that he was enfeoffed by King Henry in Foston, part of the honour of Peverel, which had escheated to the King.⁶ Another grant received by Hamon was that of

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1266-1272, p. 199.

² *Ibid.* pp. 268, 430.

³ *C. Ch. R.*, ii. 114.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 201.

⁵ *P.R.O.*, Ancient Deeds, D, 48.

⁶ *Testa de Nevill* (1807), p. 88a.

a moiety of the lands of John de Churchull in Worcestershire, to be held according to the *Dictum de Kenilworth*.¹ The castle and manor of Chartley, in Staffordshire, which had belonged to Thomas de Ferrers before the disturbances, were also granted to Hamon on the same terms; this appears from an inquest, held after his death, on January 8, 1276, at which the jury certified that Hamon had unjustly disseised Simon de Cotes of 200 acres, part of the fee of Chartley.² Another forfeited manor which came into Hamon's possession was that of Mancetter, Warwickshire. An entry on the Roll of *Placita de terris datis*, of 1267 records that Henry de Hastings acknowledges that he owes £67 12s. to Hamon le Strange for redemption of the manor of 'Manecestr'; for which William la Zouche, Eudo his brother, and Thomas de Bray became sureties; and credence is to be given to the simple word of Hamon without the burden of any other proof.³

The manor of Wrockwardine had been held by Hamon by feoffment of his father some time before 1255, and Eyton⁴ shows that this must have been made with licence from the Crown, since Hamon appears as tenant *in capite* thereof on the Hundred Roll of 1255.⁵ It has been mentioned⁶ that in 1253 Hamon had a grant of 30 marks for life, or until the King should provide for him otherwise to that value, and that ten years later the King had given him the castle and manor of Ellesmere for seventeen years in lieu of the above grant.⁷ In 1265 Ellesmere must have fallen into the hands of de Montfort, as we find it mentioned in one of his patents issued on June 18, in the name of the captive King, among the territories which he was prepared to concede to Llewelyn in return for the latter's aid against the royalists. After the defeat and death of de Montfort the King enlarged his original gift of Ellesmere, which had only been for seventeen years, by granting it to Hamon and his heirs in fee, as also the manor of Church Stretton;⁸ about the same time Hamon pur-

¹ *C. Ing. P. M.*, Hen. III, i. 282, and *C. Cl. R.*, 1272, 1279, p. 42.

² Chancery Inq. p.m., 3 Edw. I, File 11 (4).

³ *Rot. Select. curâ* Jos. Hunter, p. 153.

⁴ ix. 24.

⁵ *Rot. Hundred*, ii. 56.

⁶ *Supra*, p. 120.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 130.

⁸ *Rot. Pat.* 51 Hen. III.

chased the adjacent manors of Coolmere and Welsh-Hampton from Sir Peter de Montfort.

The last embers of the rebellion in England having been extinguished, and peace patched up with Wales on terms advantageous to Llewelyn, no more fighting remained to be done at home, so Hamon prepared to accompany his patron and friend, Prince Edward, who had agreed to follow the King of France (St. Louis) to Tunis and Palestine on the Crusade of 1270. With this object, and in order to raise money for his expenses, Hamon made arrangements for the custody and disposal of his estates. He enfeoffed his brother Roger in the manors of Ellesmere, Coolmere, and Henton.¹ To his brother Robert, who also went on the Crusade, but more fortunate than Hamon returned from it, the latter granted the manor of Chawton in Hampshire;² and to Robert he also granted by charter the manor of Wrockwardine, though, apparently, the grant was not recognised by the King until after Hamon's death; Robert did homage for it in 1274-5 as tenant *in capite* by service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.³ The manor of Stretton was assigned by Hamon to his sister Hawyse of Powys, but he exacted from her a written promise that it should be restored to him on his return from Palestine. Eyton cites the following fragment of a deed executed for this object:

Hawisa promisit per assensum mariti sui quod cum frater suus Dominus Hamo Extraneus rediret a Terra Sancta licet ei intrare manerium de Strattone in Comitatu Salop; de consensu mariti sui Domini Griffini. Testibus, Domino Rogero Extraneo, Roberto fratre suo, Odone de Hodnet.⁴

Reference to this transaction is made in an undated charter at the Exchequer, calendared by Sir F. Palgrave:

Carta Hawysie de la Pola de manerio de Strettone concesso Hamoni Extraneo de retinendo manerium predictum.

Hamon did not obtain the King's licence to his alienation of

¹ Misc. Inq. Chancery, 1 Edw. I, File 32 (14); and *Cal. Genealog. Hen. III and Edw. I*, i. 218, No. 85.

² P.R.O. Ancient Deeds, B, 3463.

³ *Rot. Orig. in cur. Scacc.*, i. 61a.

⁴ Eyton, x. 274; Glover's *Coll. A*, fo. 111.

these manors ; perhaps because he hoped to resume possession, or possibly because he was raising money on them for his expenses in going on Crusade, and did not wish to incur additional charges. We shall see that after the arrival of the news of his death the grants were not always recognised by the Crown.

Prince Edward sailed from Dover for the Crusade on August 19, 1270, but Hamon cannot have gone until some weeks later, since his name occurs as witnessing a charter of the King's son Edmund, executed at Westminster on October 15 of that year.¹ That he did in fact follow later is confirmed by an entry in the Pipe Roll,² which gives the names of eighteen knights who covenanted to sail in company with the prince, or to follow him. The expenses of the Crusade had been mainly provided by a subsidy of one-twentieth from the laity of England ; out of this the sum allotted to each knight who accompanied the prince was 100 marks, with the exception of Hamon le Strange, *who followed after*, and received the sum of 1200 marks, no doubt because he brought eleven other knights with him.

It was not until January 25, 1271, that letters of special protection were issued for four years for 'Hamo Lestrangle, going beyond seas in aid of the Holy Land,' and the like to his brother Robert ;³ and three days later the Patent Rolls contain a grant to '*Hamon le Strange, crusader*, who is going to the Holy Land,' admitting Leoninus son of Leoninus, and Walter de Eylesbury as his attorneys for four years.⁴ Evidently, therefore, he could not have started before the end of January 1271. After he had left England a grant was made on December 30 to Hamon and his heirs of free warren in his demesne lands in Chawton.⁵ In 1271 he had reached the Holy Land and was again in pecuniary difficulties, and obliged to borrow money there ; the Exchequer Calendars⁶ contain a bond of his to certain merchants in the parts of the Holy Land, executed in that year, for the large sum of 375 marks sterling. This loan may perhaps have been made on account of his marriage.

¹ *C. Ch. R.*, 1257-1300, ii. 153.

² 1 Edw. I, 2us *Rot. comp.*, quoted in *Arch. Journ.* viii. 46. [March 1851.]

³ *C.P.R.*, 1266-1272, p. 588.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 589.

⁵ *C. Ch. R.*, ii. 178.

⁶ i. 80.

The interesting fact, not noticed in any English record or publication, that Hamon married Isabelle d'Ybelin, Queen of Cyprus, was discovered by my brother Guy in the French record, styled the *Assizes de Jérusalem*, published at Paris by Comte Beugnot in 1843. In the chapter entitled 'Les Lignages d'Outremer'¹ is given a long pedigree of the house of Ybelin, derived from 'Balian le François, frère au comte Giulin de Chartres,' to whom Fulk of Anjou, King of Jerusalem, gave Ybelin, so that he and his heirs were called de Ybelin. Balian's grandson, Jehan, received the fief of Beyrout from Queen Isabeau of Jerusalem, and he and his descendants were thereafter known as 'Sire de Baruth,' or 'Dame de Baruth.' Jean, Sire de Baruth, grandson of the above-named Jehan, married Aalis, daughter of the Duke of Athens, and they had a daughter, called Isabeau or Isabelle, who was married four times. Her first husband was Hugh II, King of Cyprus, who died at the age of fourteen. Her second husband was Hamon le Strange; after his death she married, thirdly, in 1277, Nicholas Prince of Cesarea, and, fourthly, Guillaume Barlais; after all these marriages the chronicler adds, 'Et moru sans heirs.' The passage in the 'Lignages d'Outremer' which records the marriage to Hamon runs as follows:

Jehan fu Seignor de Baruth puis la mort son frère et esposa Aalis fille dou Duc d'Atènes et orent deus filles, Isabeau et Eschive. Isabeau esposa Hughes fis de Henry roy de Chipre, qui moru de quatorze ans, si com a esté dit ci-devant; puis esposa un Englès qui avoit nom Reimont l'Estrange.

The continuator of the chronicle of William of Tyre, printed in the 'Recueil des Historiens des Croisades,' also mentions this marriage:

Anno M.CC.LXXII. En cet ans meismes fu marié la Dame de Baruth à Sire Heimont l'Estrange.²

and the mention of the lady's third marriage in 1277 is proof, if that were needed, that Hamon was then dead:

Anno M.CC.LXX.VIJ. Nicolas Syres de Cesaire qui novelement avoit espousée la Dame de Baruth fu occis en Chypre a Nicosie par la main de Syre Baudouin

¹ Chap. viii. 448-449.

² P. 462 @ Lib. xxxiv. cap. xv.

d'Ybelin, par echaison qu'il avoit ocis son frère Syre Johan d'Ybelin par haine et par paroles vilaines qu'il avoit heu ensemble à Nichosie.¹

Hamon must have died very shortly after his marriage, as the news of his death reached England early in 1273 ; on April 28 of that year the Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire was ordered to take into the King's hand the manor of Strattondale, which was of the ancient demesne of the Crown, and which Hamon had held in chief and alienated without licence.² The inquisition on his death was taken during the first year of Edward I, which ended on November 20, 1273, and as it is No. 37 on the Roll was probably early in that year.³ It shows that he held in Shropshire the manors of Ellesmere, Stretton, Colemere, and Henton. Later inquisitions were held for his lands in Staffordshire and Sussex.⁴

Edward I, who did not return to England until August 2, 1274, seems to have considered it one of his first duties to see that the debts of his late friend and companion in arms were paid. On October 21 he made an order to deliver to his brother Edmund the manor of Chaucumb, which had belonged to Hamon, and which the King had caused to be delivered into his hands with Hamon's other lands ; he now directed that the issues received by him therefrom should be given to Peter de Gloria, merchant, in part payment of debts due to him from Hamon.⁵ These debts must have taken about ten years to pay off, as the Close Rolls of 1284 contain an order acquitting Henry de Shotbrok of the issues of the manor of Chaucumb if the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer ascertain that he has paid them to Peter de Gloria.⁶ The manor of Chawton in Hampshire had been granted, as we have seen, by Hamon to his brother Robert, apparently without licence, for on February 17, 1275, Edmund, the King's brother, was appointed at will to the custody of that manor.⁷ However, the King relented, and on July 18 following ordered the Sheriff of Southampton to cause Robert to have such seisin of the manor

¹ *Recueil des Historiens des Croisades*, p. 479 @ Lib. xxxiv. cap. xxxiv.

² *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 4.

³ *Inq. p.m.* i. 50b.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 57 ; and i. 65a ; *Cal. of Inq.* ii. No. 144.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 106 ; and *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 263.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 263.

⁷ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 81.

as he had before it was taken into the King's hands on the death of his brother Hamon.¹

Mention occurs during the reign of Henry III of the following le Stranges whom I am unable to connect with the main line of the family.

ROGER LE STRANGE.

The Patent Rolls record that Roger le Strange was presented on August 4, 1244, to the rectory of Hodnet (in Shropshire), which was in the King's gift by reason of the voidance of the abbey of Shrewsbury.²

Another Roger occurs in an undated Norfolk deed, preserved at the Record Office, whereby John, called the shoemaker (*sutor*), grants to Roger le Straunge and Matilda his wife a messuage with curtilage and land in Salle, part upon *Douestalle*, by land of the lord of Frethorne, part in *Sondfelde*, and part in the tillage called *Wychelonde*. Witnesses: Simon de Fromilode, Walter le Fraunceys of Frompton, and others (named).³ This Roger very probably belonged to the Litcham branch of the family.

GEOFFREY LE STRANGE.

A safe conduct, dated at Bordeaux, September 24, 1242, was granted to Geoffrey le Strange of Exeter, to pass through the King's power with his ship called *The Ship of St. Mary*.⁴ This was at the time when Henry had retired to Bordeaux, after his defeat at Taillebourg and the consequent loss of Poitou.

HENRY LE STRANGE.

The Fine Roll of 1245 records that Luvekinus de Shrewworthin was impleaded for the death of Henry le Strange, and that he paid a fine of 2½ marks (equivalent to at least £80 to-day) to the Sheriff of Salop.⁵

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272, 1279, p. 203.

² *C.P.R.*, 1232-1247, p. 433.

³ *Cat. of Ancient Deeds P.R.O.*, ii. 374, B, 3165 [Norfolk].

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1233-1247, iii. 326.

⁵ *Excerpt. e rot. Fin. Hen. III*, i. 439.

PHILIP LE STRANGE.

Philip le Strange, who is mentioned in connection with the men of Gloucester, had letters of simple protection on August 28, 1265, until Easter following.¹

RICHARD, SON OF DURAND LE STRANGE.

The Chartulary of Haughmond Abbey, under the heading of Rowshill in Shrewsbury, mentions that Richard, son of Durand le Strange, gave a rent of 17*d.* from a messuage which William Aurifax holds: '*Teste Ricardo Rustico tunc preposito, Peter son of Peter confirms—Teste Gamel, and Reiner, son of Martin, tunc prepositis.*'² The writer of the paper in the Shropshire *Transactions* adds in a note, 'These are among our earliest provosts.'

RICHARD, SON OF THOMAS LE STRANGE.

The same Chartulary records, under Stories Close in Shrewsbury, that William de Clermont, canon of the church of St. Chad, Salop, gave a croft with the appurtenances '*juxta Wallias ex muro burg Salop*, which he bought from Richard, son of Thomas le Strange. *Teste, Andrew son of Hubert, and Robert Infante prepositis Salopie.*'³ (Note, early Hen. III.)

ROBERT LE STRANGE.

An undated deed in the Hunstanton Muniment Room⁴ is witnessed by 'Roberto Extraneo'; it is a grant from Humfrey de Wiveleshoe and Matilda his wife to Geoffrey de Oiry of the advowson and collation of the church of St. Andrew of Great Ringstead until the full age of Cecilia, daughter and heir of Philip de Burnham. This deed is quoted by Blomefield,⁵ who says, without giving any authority, that it was dated 25 Hen. III (1240-1). The date is certainly before 45 Hen. III, as Cecilia

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 446.

² *Trans. Shrop. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, i. 207.

³ *Ibid.* i. 211-212.

⁴ [F.F.9.]

⁵ viii. 453.

was then the wife of William de Calthorp.¹ If Blomefield is right in assigning 1240-1 as the date, Robert who witnessed it cannot have been the fourth son of John (III) and Lucia de Tregoz, as he would only have been about seven years old, since his eldest brother John (IV) was born c. 1229. Robert was the last witness to attest the deed, and it is not likely that a considerable personage, such as the ancestor of the house of Blackmere, would have been placed so low down among the witnesses; this Robert is more likely one of the Litcham le Stranges.

I may end this chapter by noticing an early deed, preserved at the Record Office, which mentions Hunstanton and Heacham, though it has nothing to do with the family of le Strange. It is a grant by Roger, son of Ralph Desys of '*Huntstanystune*,' to the prior and convent of St. Pancras in Lewes, in frankalmoign, of the yearly rent of 5s., which he was wont to receive from them for Thorp mill in '*Hecham*.' Witnesses, Hugh de Caly, Albin de Stanford, and others (named).² The Cluniac monastery of St. Pancras at Lewes had a cell at Heacham, to which the rectory, the patronage of the vicarage, and the priory manor were appropriated; it was situated on the bank of the stream, a little to the south of the present manor farmhouse, and the monks evidently worked the mill for their own purposes, and got it rent-free under the above grant. The first witness, Hugh de Caley, held a lordship in Heacham *temp.* Henry III. The grantor, under the designation of '*Roger des Hys de Hunstanestun*,' witnessed the deed of John le Strange (IV) to Gilbert de Tychewell, printed in Chapter I.³ A Joan '*des Ys*' appears in a Norwich deed of 1323-4;⁴ and again, as Joan '*Sys*' of Hunstanton, in another Norwich deed of 1325.⁵

The Manorial Rolls, preserved in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton Hall, commence during the time of John le Strange (III). The earliest relating to the parish of Hunstanton is a Court Roll '*dñi Johis ex^anei*,' commencing in the fortieth year of Henry III

¹ Blomefield, viii. 453.

² *Cat. of Ancient Deeds P.R.O.*, ii. 146, A. 3021 [Norf.].

⁴ W. Rye's *Cal. Norw. Deeds*, 1307-1341, p. 124.

³ *Supra*, p. 4.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 129.

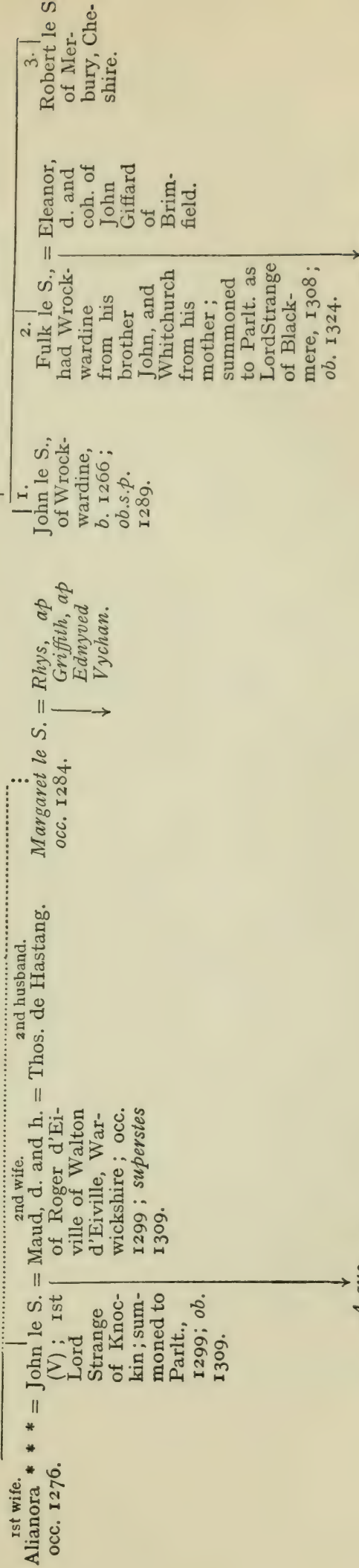
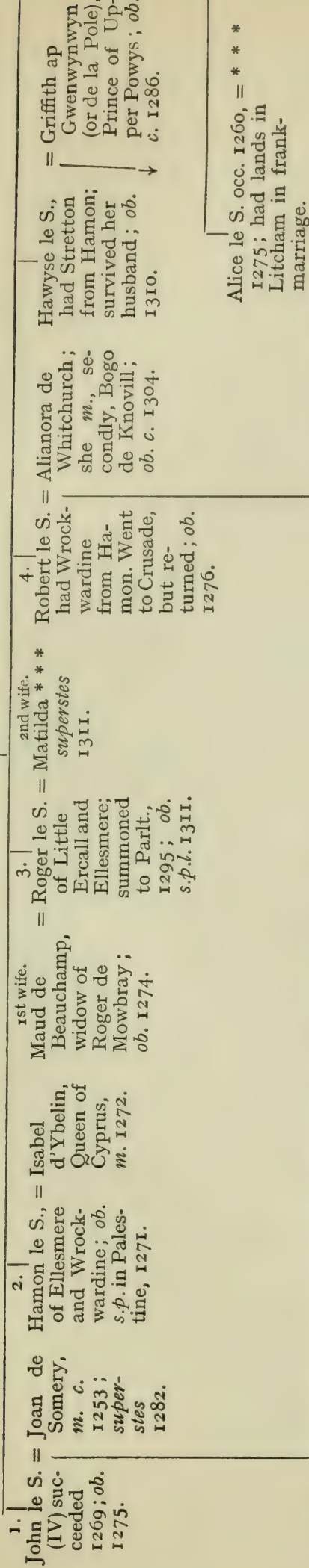
(A.D. 1255-6) ; on the dorse thereof are entered the Court Rolls and a rental of the manor of '*Lucham*' (Litcham). There is a Court Roll for Hunstanton of the 50th and 51st Hen. III, and others from the 4th to the 34th of Edward I ; also an undated rental of the same period. The Hunstanton bailiffs' accounts commence with the 5th year of Edward III, and there are rentals for that parish for the reigns of Edward I and III. For Ringstead the Court Rolls commence with one of the 29th Edward I, but there are bailiffs' accounts of the reign of Henry III. The Heacham Court Rolls begin on the 4th of Edward I, and the bailiffs' accounts on the 24th of the same King ; there is a rental of Henry III, and a collectors' roll of 1279. There is a large collection of title-deeds—the earliest dated one being of 1199—they relate to the parishes of Hunstanton, Ringstead, Holme, Heacham, Sedgeford, Snettisham, Docking, Fring, East Barsham, and Tottington. An inadequate examination of these muniments was made in 1871 by the late Mr. Alfred J. Horwood, who only devoted part of two days to it ; his notes were published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission ;¹ a calendar of some letters preserved here was made by the present writer, and also published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission in 1887.²

¹ *Third Report*, App., pp. 271-274.

² *Eleventh Report*, App., pp. 93-118.

PEDIGREE No. V

JOHN LE STRANGE (III) = LUCIA DE TREGOZ.
succeeded 1234; ob. 1269.
Superstes 1294.



A quo
LE STRANGE OF KNOCKIN.

A quo
LE STRANGE OF BLACKMERE.

CHAPTER V

JOHN LE STRANGE (IV)

1269-1275

JOHN LE STRANGE (IV) was not long-lived like his father and grandfather, who had held possession of their estates for fifty-six and thirty-five years respectively ; he was only in possession for the short period of six and a half years, though he had been in active public life for more than twenty years previously. Eyton states¹ that he did homage for them at Westminster on March 25, 1269 ; he must then have been upwards of forty years of age. Between 1262 and 1267 he had been enfeoffed by his father in Rowelton and Elleworthyn, and within the same period John the younger gave the said tenements to his brother Robert.² During his father's lifetime he had made a brilliant marriage, which eventually added greatly to the territorial influence of his family ; this must have taken place about 1253 or earlier, as the Norfolk inquisition on his death in 1276 shows that his eldest son was then over twenty-two years of age.³ His wife was Joan, daughter of Roger de Somery, of Dudley Castle, co. Stafford, by his first wife Nicola, sister and co-heir of Hugh de Albini, last Earl of Arundel of that line ; on his death in 1243, the large estates of the Albini family were divisible between his four sisters and co-heirs, or their issue,⁴ but the inheritance, as we shall see below, was not actually divided among the co-heirs until after

¹ x. 32.

² Eyton, ix. 241 ; Plac. Coron., 20 Edw. I, m. 6, dorso.

³ Chancery Inq. p.m., 4 Edw. I, File 14 (4).

⁴ C.I.P.M., 1 Edw. I, No. 16.

the death of Roger de Somery in 1273, since he was entitled by *the courtesy of England* to hold the estates of his first wife for the term of his life.

Concerning the part taken in the wars of the barons by John le Strange (IV) during his father's lifetime I have dealt fully in the preceding chapter, and have endeavoured to show that Eyton's strictures on his loyalty are to a great extent undeserved. The scanty mention of him during the few years that elapsed between his father's death and his own might seem to lend colour to the idea that he was out of favour at Court, and no longer in the confidence of his sovereign ; but it must be remembered that during the first three of those years Henry III was almost in his dotage, incapacitated by infirmities of mind and body from taking much part in affairs of State, and that, at the time of his death on November 16, 1272, his son and successor was absent in the Holy Land, and did not return to England until August 2, 1274, just a year before the death of John le Strange.

The following undated deed of John (IV) exists in the Hunstanston Muniment Room :¹

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum peruenerit Dominus Johannes Extraneus patronus ecclesie de Hunstanston Salutem in Domino sempiternam. Noueritis me concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Willelmo de Secheford, pro me et pro heredibus meis, unam paruam angulam jacentem iuxta cimiterium de Hunstanston ex una parte, et messuagium eiusdem Willelmi ex altera parte. Et continet in se, in longitudine ex parte cimiterii versus occidentem quatuor viginti et octo pedes. Et ex parte messuagii eiusdem Willelmi versus orientem quatuor viginti et quinque pedes. Et extendit se in latitudine ad caput aquilonare tresdecim pedes, et ad caput australe quadraginta et sex pedes. Habendum et tenendum eidem Willelmo et heredibus suis libere quiete jure hereditario bene et in pace. Reddendo inde annuatim Altari ecclesie de Hunstanston ad festum assumptionis beate marie Virginis quatuor denarios pro omnibus seruiciis consuetudinibus exacionibus et demandis. In cuius rei testimonium huic scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Domino Roberto Extraneo, Domino Johanne de Lee, Roberto Bulman, Adam de Musterol, Gilberto de Tychewell, Galfrido Baniard, Ricardo Bosse, Rogero des Ys, et aliis.

[*Seal wanting.*]

[A.G. 1.]

The date of this deed must be between the years 1269 and 1275, the period for which John (IV) held the estate ; most of the witnesses are Norfolk men, whose names occur *temp.* Edward I. John de Lee married the only daughter of Simon de Furneaux of Middle Harling ;¹ the Mustrells possessed a manor in Hunstanton, called after them, and Adam de Mustrell gave lands here to his son Hamon in the 7th of Edward I ;² Jeffrey Banyard held the manor of Gatesthorp, near Harling, at the same period.³ The occurrence of these Norfolk witnesses renders it probable that the above deed was executed at Hunstanton, and if so, it is of interest as showing that the Shropshire le Stranges visited their Norfolk estate. The only difficulty connected with the deed is that John le Strange (IV) describes himself as patron of the church of Hunstanton, whereas, as has already been mentioned,⁴ his great-grandfather, John (I), had granted the advowson of that church to the abbey of Haughmond about a century previously.

Eyton quotes⁵ from the Salop Chartulary a charter, which he takes to have passed about 1269, whereby John le Strange (IV) grants to Shrewsbury Abbey his mill of Platte, and all suit of his men thereto in his manors of Ruyton, Middle, Ness, Hopton, and Kinton : this grant was made in order that the monks of Shrewsbury might celebrate Mass daily for the souls of himself, his heirs, his ancestors, and successors. In the same charter he mentions that a second mill, situated in his park of Ruyton, had been given to the abbot of Haughmond. Another undated deed in the chartulary of this abbey⁶ shows that a third mill, called the Heath Mill, was also given to it by John (IV). Eyton⁷ gives the following summary of this grant :

As *Johannes Extraneus quartus* he gives and confirms, for the souls of himself and his wife Johanna, his mill of Heath (*molendinum de bruerio*), with its fishery and appurtenances, and with timber to repair the same out of his wood of Radenhall (*Rednall*), and with a place near the mill convenient for winnowing. One moiety of the profits of this mill was to go to the canons themselves ; with the other moiety they were to provide two candles, to burn at the head and foot of the tomb of the aforesaid Johanna, the grantor's wife. The grantor further concedes to the canons the stank of the higher vivary, to be raised and repaired for their use

¹ Blomefield, i. 314 ; viii. 264.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 35. ⁵ x. 113.

² *Ibid.* ix. 100 ; x. 322.

⁶ Fo. 106.

³ *Ibid.* i. 252.

⁷ x. 114.

and advantage, with earth taken on either side thereof. Lastly, he undertakes that neither he nor his heirs shall raise the stank of the vivary near the King's highroad towards Oswestry, nor shall construct any other mill there, so as to injure the Heath mill.

Eyton further cites a deed of the same benefactor,¹ dated in 1272, by which he gave to Haughmond Abbey one acre of his own demesne in Ruyton, and the advowson of the church thereof. Nor did even this exhaust the gifts of John le Strange to the abbey favoured by so many of his race; the chartulary shows that he gave to it the whole land of Caldecote, a member of his home manor of Knockyn.²

The Forest Assize Roll of November 1271 contains an entry as to trespass in the Long Forest of Shropshire³ by Peter de Vaux and other dependents of John le Strange junior, at that time only 17½ years of age, who captured a stag near Middlehope Mill.

For many years there had been rivalry and ill-feeling between the le Stranges and the Corbets of Caus. In October 1255 Thomas Corbet brought an action against John le Strange (at that time *junior*), alleging that he had taken goods to the value of 700 marks from certain of his manors.⁴ Corbet's suit was pending for seventeen years, and the cumulative damages were rated at £1000; an inquest was ordered to investigate the case, but the result does not appear; perhaps the matter fell through, owing to the deaths of both parties within a year of each other.

I have mentioned⁵ that Joan, the wife of John le Strange (IV), did not obtain her share of the Albini lands which she inherited from her mother Nicola until after the death of her father, Roger de Somery, in 1273, as he held them for life by the courtesy of England; but Joan and her sisters appear to have made a claim two years before her father's death to some other lands inherited by them from their maternal grandmother, Mabel, one of the four sisters and co-heiresses of Ranulph le Meschin, Earl of Chester.⁶ The inquisitions post-mortem of Henry III

¹ x. 114.

² *Trans. Shrops. Arch. Soc.*, i. 192.

³ Eyton, vi. 342.

⁴ Plea Rolls, 56 Hen. III, m. 11; Eyton, vii. 25.

⁵ *Supra*. p. 154.

⁶ He is also styled de Blundevill, from the place of his birth, Oswestry (*Album Monasterium*, or *Blonde Ville*), and under that designation an exhaustive account of him is given by J. H. Round in the *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

contain a writ '*ad plenum certiorari*,' dated January 26, 1271,¹ on the petition of Ralph de Crumwell and Margaret his wife, John le Strange and Joan his wife, Walter de Suly and Mabel his wife, and Henry de Erdington and Maud his wife, concerning the lands (unspecified) which were of Clemence, sometime Countess of Chester, and were taken into the King's hands upon her death by reason of the minority of her heir, Ralph de Somery, lately deceased, of whom the said Margaret, Joan, Mabel, and Maud claim to be the heirs. The inquest has unfortunately not been preserved, and I am inclined to suspect that some mistake has been made in the writ as to Ralph de Somery, as I cannot understand either how he could have been the heir of Clemence Countess of Chester, or how Margaret, Joan, Mabel, and Maud could have been his heirs. Clemence Countess of Chester was the second wife of Ranulph le Meschin, Earl of Chester, who died *s.p.* October 26, 1232; she was the daughter of William de Fougères by Agatha, sister of William de Humez, constable of Normandy, and survived her husband twenty years, dying in 1252. What lands she possessed is not apparent, and the writ above quoted does not specify them, but Burke² says that Ranulph acquired with her, not only a large accession of lands in France, but also some extensive manors in England. These lands would have gone to their four daughters, the second of whom, Mabel, married William de Albini, Earl of Arundel, and was the mother of Nicola de Albini, the wife of Roger de Somery, whose daughter, Joan, married John le Strange (IV). The line of descent will be better understood by a glance at the pedigree on opposite page.

Roger de Somery died in 1273. The writ for the inquisition on his death³ is dated August 26, and shows that he held lands of his own inheritance in nine counties of England, and also, of the inheritance of his first wife, Nicola de Albini, the manor of Barrow-on-Soar, Leicestershire, and that of Campden in Gloucestershire. The lands of his own inheritance descended, of course, to his eldest son Roger, issue of his second wife, Amabel de Chaucombe, while those of Nicola de Albini were divided

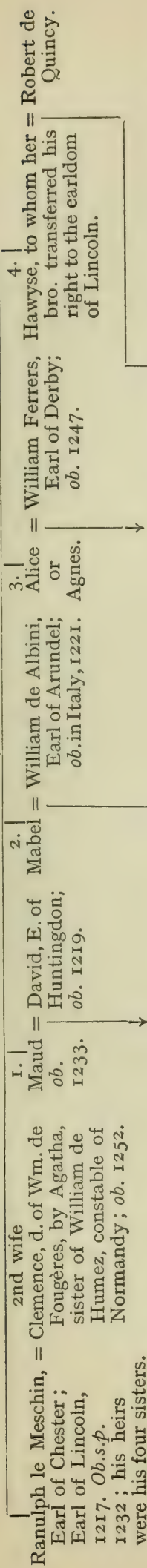
¹ File 40, No. 12; and Cal. thereof, i. 258, No. 779.

² *Extinct Peerage*, p. 348.

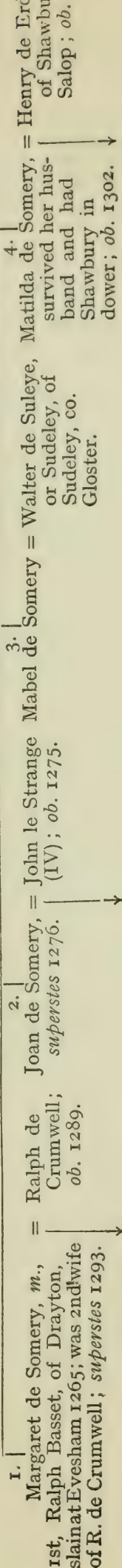
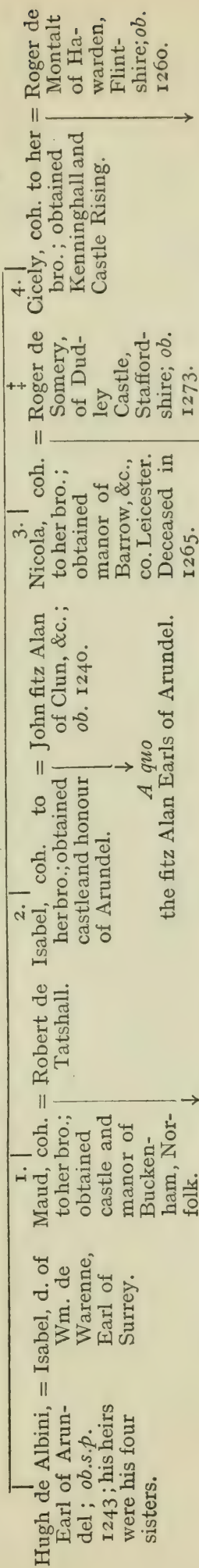
³ *C.I.P.M. Edw. I*, ii. pp. 14-16.

DESCENT OF JOAN DE SOMERY.

HUGH DE CYVEILIOG, 3rd Earl of Chester = BERTRADA, d. of Simon, Count of Evreux,
ob. 1181.

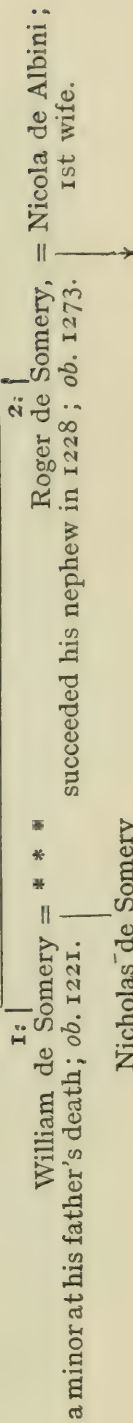


Margaret, only d. and heir, = John de Lacy; created Earl of Lincoln, 1232.



† John de Somery = Hawyse, sister and acquired by marriage the feudal barony of Dudley.

Ralph de Somery, = * * * feudal lord of Dudley; ob. 1210.



Nicholas de Somery ob.s.p. 1228.

among her four daughters ; her inheritance is expressly stated to be part of the 'barony of Chester,' which had come to her from her uncle, Earl Ranulph, 'de terra quam prædictus Rogerus tenuit tanquam partem baroniæ Cestriæ ipsum contingentem per Nicholaam de Albiniaco uxorem suam primam, unam de heredibus Hugonis de Albiniaco comitis Arundell', qui fuit unus de heredibus Ranulphi quondam comitis Cestriæ.'¹ The partition took some months to arrange, and it was not until April 12, 1274, that the escheator this side Trent was ordered to deliver to John le Strange the lands which the King had assigned as the purparty of Joan, sister and co-heiress of Nicola and Hugh and John's wife ; the extent thereof is worth giving in full, as it affords a good idea of the very varied items which made up the revenue from a manor in the thirteenth century :

In the manor of Barrow 5 virgates of land, 12 acres of meadow upon the bank and elsewhere in parcels, an acre and an acre and a half of several pasture, a quarter of two water-mills, a quarter of the park, to wit, 90 acres by the extent, and 300 acres of the foreign wood ; and of the free tenants, from William son of Adam, for a virgate of land, 4s. ; from the heirs of Robert Martin, for 2 virgates of land and an assart, 12*d.* and 20 barbed arrows, price 10*d.* ; Robert son of Ralph, for a bovat of land, 3s. 0½*d.* ; Robert de Fornham, for 4 bovates of land, 3s. ; Walter le Sauser, for a virgate of land, a pound of pepper, worth 8*d.* ; Roger le Erle, for an assart, 2s. ; John le Despenser, for a *cultura*, 12*d.* ; Preciosa de Staunton, for 4 virgates of land in Friseby, a quiver and 13 arrows, worth 18*d.* ; Turgis de Birleye for an assart, 6*d.* ; Walter le Sauser, for an acre and a half, 1½*d.* ; from the customary tenants, to wit, Richard Pars, Richard le Carpenter, William Beu, William Dane, William son of Thomas le Chat, John Brid, William le Doneur, John Hervy, John Oy, Gilbert Flory, Robert de Soley, each of whom holds a virgate of land ; of the cottars, Henry Campion, Matilda Bridd, Henry le Plomer, each of whom renders yearly, with the rents of boon-works and tallages, 2s. ; Richard le Fevre, for a cottage-holding [*cotsend*], 2s. ; Matilda Sturnell for a cottage-holding, 18*d.* ; Henry le Charetter, for a cottage-holding and 3 selions,² 3s. 4*d.* ; Geoffrey le Messer, for 2 cottage-holdings, 3s. 4*d.* ; Turgis Erley for an acre, 6*d.* ; John le Saler, for a bovat of land, 2s. ; Thomas Felach, for a bovat and an acre of land, 3s. 1*d.* ; John Herebert, for an assart, 19*d.* ; from the holders of wood-houses (*wodehusis*), to wit, John Hervy, for 4½ acres of land, 4s. ; Thomas Felach, for 3½ acres, 3s. 6*d.* ; Ralph son of Geoffrey, for 3 acres, 3s. in the same manors ; and in the manor of Caumpeden, from the customary tenants of Westington ; William Det, for half a burgage, 6*d.* ; Dionysia the nurse, for half a burgage,

¹ *Calendarium Genealogicum Hen. III and Edw. I*, i. 196, No. 15.

² A strip of land, or furrow.

18*d.* ; William King for a burgage, 20*d.* ; John Prest, for a burgage, 20*d.* ; Robert Davy, for half a burgage, 4*d.* ; John de Aldeswell for half a burgage, 6*d.* ; Philip le Feytur, for half a burgage, 16*d.* ; Agnes Buffard, for a burgage, 16*d.* ; Walter le Mouner, for a burgage and a stall, 18*d.* ; Richard Child, for half a burgage, 8*d.* ; John Fressaunt, for a burgage, 13*d.* ; Thomas de Burton, for half a burgage, 8*d.* ; Thomas Botte, for half a burgage, 8*d.* ; Walter Hamelyn, for half a burgage, 8*d.* ; Walter de Blockele, for half a burgage, 8*d.* ; Robert le Messer, for 2 burgages, 2*s.* 6*d.* ; William Kyng, for a burgage, 12*d.* ; Thomas Eadmund, for a burgage, 12*d.* ; Thomas Fawkes, for half a burgage, 6*d.* ; William King, for 2 stalls, 12*d.* ; William Thurbern, for a messuage, 2*d.* ; Isolda de Thounshull, for a messuage, 2*d.* ; Ranulph Papelard, for a messuage with a stall, 8*d.* ; Simon Grinell, for half a burgage, 8*d.* ; Robert de Fornham for a burgage, 10*d.* ; and in Westington and Britton, Walter de Coningate, who holds a virgate, Gilbert atte Grave, who holds a virgate, Alice the widow, who holds a virgate ; Walter Austyn, who holds a virgate, Richard de Rales, who holds a virgate ; Nicholas Hamard, who holds a virgate ; Roger Abovenchirche, who holds a virgate ; Albred' de Molend[ino] of Birton, who holds half a virgate, and Adam le Fevere, who holds half a virgate of land ; the heir of Walter le Despenser, for a burgage in Winchecumbe, 9*d.* ; Alexander le Mir, for a cottage, 8*d.* The King has committed this pourparty to John, to hold until his return to England, on condition that John shall then answer to the King for the issues thereof, if the King wish to have them.¹

Cecily, the fourth daughter of William de Albini, and sister of Nicola, the wife of Roger de Somery, obtained as her share of the Albini inheritance the manors of Kenninghall and Castle Rising, in Norfolk ; she married Roger de Montalt, of Hawarden, in Flintshire, and the estates eventually descended to their second son, Robert de Montalt, who died in 1275. The inquest on his death,² dated October 7, 1275, gives an extent of the manor of Rising, which mentions, among the knights' fees held of it, that five were held by John le Strange, viz. 'Hunstaneston, Geyton, Sneterton [*alias* Snytreton], Ryngested, and Holm.' On October 28 these five fees were among those which were assigned as dower to Joan, late the wife of Robert de Monte Alto.³ Robert was succeeded by his eldest son Roger, who died without issue in 1297, his brother Robert being his heir ; he too had no issue, and was the last of the Montalts ; during his lifetime, in consideration of a sum of 10,000 marks paid by the King, Robert settled Castle Rising and

¹ *C. Cl. R. 2 Edw. I*, 1272, 1279, pp. 76-77.

² *C.I.P.M. Edw. I*, ii. p. 84, No. 128.

³ *C. Cl. R. Edw. I*, 1272-1279, p. 215.

his other extensive estates on Queen Isabella, mother of Edward III, and in consequence of this settlement it was that Castle Rising became a place at which she frequently resided during the twenty-seven years of her widowhood, though the story that she was a prisoner there has been disproved by the researches of Mr. Alan Swatman and Mr. Henry Harrod.¹

One of the Domesday manors which were eventually swallowed up in constituting the Chatellany or Fee of Knockin was Moreton. Eyton mentions² that John le Strange (IV) mortgaged this vill to Rhys ap Griffith for 120 marks, 100 of which were subsequently paid off by John, in the shape of a Destrier, worth 80 marks, and a palfrey, worth 20 marks. These high-priced *Dextrarii*, which were sometimes valued at 100 and even 120 marks, were the slow but powerful shire-horses, only ridden by the barons and richest bannerets. This mortgage got le Strange into trouble, as King Edward, on visiting the border, found the vill in the hands of a Welshman, and promptly confiscated it; an inquest was held in January 1277, on the petition of John le Strange (V),³ who had then succeeded his father, and it appears that the vill, no doubt for some valuable consideration, was subsequently restored to him, as it is expressly included in a feodary of 1397-8 as part of the fees which John le Strange of Knockyn then held in the barony of fitz Alan.⁴

It will be remembered that in December, 1263, Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Upper Powys, and brother-in-law of John le Strange (IV), had transferred his allegiance from the English Crown to Llewelyn.⁵ This alliance was recognised by the peace effected in 1267 between the King and Llewelyn, and Griffith remained a vassal of the latter for about twelve years. An excellent paper on 'The Princes of Upper Powys,' by the Hon. and Rev. G. T. O. Bridgman,⁶ gives the history of Griffith and his widow. In 1275 there was a rupture between Llewelyn and the lord of Powys in consequence of which the territory of the latter was again placed under English protection: Griffith

¹ Harrod's *Castles and Convents of Norfolk*, pp. 32-42.

² x. 364.

³ Inquis. p.m., 5 Edw. I, No. 60.

⁴ *C.I.P.M.*, iii. 223.

⁵ *Supra*, p. 130.

⁶ *Montgomeryshire Collections of the Powysland Club*, i. 22-50.

ended his life as he had begun it, a subject of the English king, and transmitted his lands to his heirs to be held as an English barony. His son and successor, known as Owen de la Pole—*i.e.* Owen of [Welsh] Pool—at the Parliament of Shrewsbury, in 1283, expressly resigned to the King his title and coronet of a prince (*nomen et circulum Principatus*), and his lands, receiving back the latter to be held in free baronage of England.¹ On August 28, 1277, Griffith executed a confirmation of an earlier charter by which he had granted to his wife Hawyse certain lands—viz. the land of Dendover; three towns in Coiddwr; the town of Argegvoet; three towns in Caereinion; some pastures in Cyveiliog; a free burgage at Treffnant; and the town of Llandebo, &c. The first secular witnesses to this grant are Hawyse's brother, Roger le Strange of Ellesmere, and her nephew, John le Strange (V) of Knockin.²

In June, 1283, Griffith was acting against Gwynnedd,³ and in that month was summoned to the Parliament held at Shrewsbury for the trial of David.⁴ The year 1283 is generally given as the date of his death, but Professor Tout has shown⁵ that he was alive on February 27, 1286, as is shown by a deed of his dated at Bottington on Ash Wednesday, 14 Edw. I.⁶ His wife Hawyse (le Strange) survived him for many years. During his lifetime she had acquired the manor of Church Stretton by the gift of her brother Hamon, who had died in Palestine. After the news of Hamon's death arrived, the manor was seized for the King because Hamon had alienated it without licence, but afterwards, by the King's order, the whole revenue thereof was paid to Hawyse. In his patent of January 11, 1278, the King recites that, having granted to Hawyse, late the wife of Griffith ap Wenwynwyn, the manor of Strattondale to hold at will, if he wished at any time to resume it, he undertook to assign her for life twenty librates of land in some competent place, such assignment to revert to the King on the death of Hawyse.⁷ She enjoyed the manor for

¹ *Montgomeryshire Collections of the Powysland Club*, pp. 257-423.

² *Cal. of various Chancery Rolls, 1277-1326*; *Welsh Rolls*, p. 179.

³ *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 266.

⁴ *Fædera*, i. 630.

⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, xxiii. 304.

⁶ *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 413.

⁷ *Welsh Rolls*, i. 162.

the whole of her life, but a year before her death Edward II issued an inquisition *Ad quod damnum*¹ to ascertain its value, the result of which is given by Eyton as follows :²

The Inquest reported that the collective tenants of the manor and Vale paid assized rents of £12 10s. These rents were for lands of ancient tenure, for the site of a certain ancient manor (probably Stretton Castle), for arable lands, formerly constituting the manorial demesne, and for the labour-dues of the Villeins as valued a long time back. The meadow land of the manor was worth £2 per annum. A separate pasture in the King's bosc of *Ragelyth*, and within the bounds of the Long Forest, was worth 6s. 8d. yearly. The underwood thereof could not be taken into account, because it was kept as a covert for game, and there was no high timber therein. The bosc called *Wymbrghtoneswode* consisted of lofty oaks. The *pesson*³ thereof was worth 6s. 8d. yearly; the pasturage was common; and there was no underwood. A water-mill was worth 13s. 4d.; two *Vivaries* were worth 10s. yearly. A custom called *Passagium carectarum*⁴ produced 20s., and the pleas and perquisites of the manor court produced £2 13s. 4d. The whole valuation amounted to £20 per annum, and there was the common pasture of the Stretton Hills, which pasture was about 20 leagues in circumference. This was not valued, because it was open to the whole country. The advowson of the church belonged to the manor. The church was worth £20 per annum.

Another extent was ordered by writ of October 26, 1309, the King having granted the manor to Edmund Earl of Arundel if he should survive Hawyse de la Pole. She outlived her son, Owen de la Pole, and at his death the custody of the castle of la Pole, and the lands which had belonged to him, were assigned to her.⁵ In 1307-8, though Hawyse was still alive, Edward II gave the custody of Pole Castle and lands to Griffith de la Pole, younger brother of Owen, and uncle to his children, Griffith and Hawyse de la Pole; Griffith died on June 25, 1309, leaving Hawyse his heiress. Her marriage to John de Charlton, a Shropshire knight, an officer of Edward II's Court and ultimately his chamberlain, secured for her husband and his house the permanent possession of the land of Pool as an English barony. Griffith, the uncle, was robbed of his guardianship, and his efforts to win back Pool, helped by his le Strange kinsfolk, led to a feud that lasted till 1330, and fluctuated as the tide of royal and baronial successes ebbed and flowed.⁶

¹ 2 Edw. II, No. 122.

² xii. 26.

³ Mast, acorns, or nuts.

⁴ A toll on carts passing through the vill.

⁵ Rot. Orig. Abbrev., 23 Edw. I, No. 8.

⁶ See art. in *Dict. Nat. Biog.* on Charlton, by Professor Tout, x. 125.

Hawyse, the grandmother, died in November, 1310.¹ The silver matrix of her seal was found in digging a foundation at Oswestry in the middle of the last century, and is now in the Shrewsbury Museum. It is an interesting example of heraldry of about 1300; it represents a female, standing, clothed in kirtle, long mantle, low-crowned reticulated cap, and gorget; she holds a shield in either hand, the dexter one charged with the arms of her husband, a lion rampant, and on the sinister one those of her father, two lions passant. The legend round the seal reads: 'S' HAWISIE DNE DE KEVEOLOG' (Cyveiliog). A small piece of the lower point of the seal beneath the feet of the figure has been broken off, but with this exception it is as perfect as when it was made; there is no handle, but it has a small ring welded on to the back. An engraving of this seal was published in the 'Archæologia Cambrensis' (5th series), ix. 10, and the woodcut was lent to the Archæological Institute, and was reproduced in their Journal, x. 143, in the year 1853; it is also engraved in the 'Montgomeryshire Collections,' i. 49. I have been able to get an excellent photograph of an impression made from the original, which is reproduced on Plate X, p. 370, and gives a more accurate representation of it than the woodcuts of the last century could render.

A considerable number of encaustic tiles, bearing heraldic designs of the early part of the fourteenth century, were found on the site of the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella, some of them bearing the le Strange lions. As Hawyse held as part of her dower the manor of Buttington, which is only separated from the site of the abbey by the river Severn, it is natural to suppose that she was a benefactress to the abbey, and that her paternal arms should be found there.²

The latest date on which I can find proof that John le Strange was alive is May 23, 1275, on which day he released and quit-claimed to his brother Robert all his right in the manor of Wrockwardine by deed dated at 'Le Knokyn' on Ascension Day, 3 Edw. I.³ He must have died before November 20 following, as the Hundred Rolls of 3 Edw. I, which regnal year ended on that day,

¹ Inq. p.m., 4 Edw. II, No. 39.

² *Arch. Cambr.* (5th series), ix. 10, 11.

³ Rot. Claus., 3 Edw. I, m. 15, dorso.

contain an inquisition held in the Hundred of Smethedon, where-
at the jurors found that, on the death of John le Strange, the manor
of Hunstanton, though not held *in capite*, was taken into the
King's hands, and that the escheator levied from it one hundred
shillings, and a horse worth twenty shillings.¹ John le Strange
can only have been about forty-five years old at this time ; the
cause of his death at so early an age is given by the subjoined
entry in the bailiffs' accounts of Shrewsbury, which shows that
he was drowned in the Severn :

ii septimanas post Epiphaniam Domini anno quarto [January, 1276] Md.
quod Petrus Gerard et Rogerus Pride, Coronatores villæ Salop solverunt ad
scaccarium pro equo domini Johannis Extranei submersi xxs.²

A note on this passage in the 'Transactions' quoted points out
that *submersi* agrees with *domini* and not with *equo*, but suggests
that probably the horse and not his rider was drowned, as only
20s. was paid. This conjecture ignores the actual facts which caused
the making of this entry. I am indebted to Mr. Walter Rye for
explaining to me the real bearing of the entry. It means that
John le Strange was drowned while on horseback, and that his
horse was consequently taken as a *deodand*, and the coroners had
to account for its value to the royal exchequer. Dr. Cowell,
writing in 1607, gives the following explanation of the word in
his 'Interpreter' :

Deodandum is a thing given, or rather forfeited, as it were, to God, for the
pacification of his wrath in case of Misadventure, whereby any Christian man
cometh to a violent end, without the fault of any reasonable creature . . . to
be sold and distributed to the poor, for an expiation of that dreadful event,
though effected by unreasonable, yea, senseless, and inanimate Creatures.

The Hunstanton inquisition, quoted at the top of this page,
shows that 20s., the equivalent of about £40 to-day, was then a
usual price for a horse.

Three months or more were allowed to elapse before the issue
of the writs of '*Diem Clausit Extremum*' to the escheators of the
various counties in which John le Strange held lands ; on Feb-

¹ *Rot. Hundr. temp. Hen. III et Edw. I*, i. 523b.

² *Trans. Shrops. Arch. Soc.* (2nd series), iii. 68.

ruary 26, 1276, these writs were sent to the Sheriffs of Salop, Northampton, Leicester, Norfolk, and Gloucester, directing them to hold inquisitions, and to take into the King's hand all lands held in chief by the deceased.¹ On March 21 the Sheriff of Leicester was ordered to seize the pourparty of John, son of John le Estraunge, one of the heirs of Nicola, late the wife of Roger de Somery, of her lands in Barrow-on-Soar;² and three days later, viz. on March 24, the Sheriffs of Northampton, Gloucester, Salop, and Norfolk were ordered to deliver to Roger le Strange all the lands late of John le Strange deceased, tenant-in-chief, as the King had committed them to him during pleasure.³ As John's heir was of full age it is not apparent why the lands should have been committed to anyone else, and indeed it is open to doubt as to which of his uncles they were committed, whether to Roger, the elder of the two, or to Robert; the Fine Roll just quoted says that it was to Roger, but the Close Rolls contain an order, dated May 16, directing Robert le Strange, keeper of the lands that belonged to John le Strange, to cause John, son and heir of the said John, to have seisin of his father's lands, as the King has taken his homage for them.⁴

The Shropshire inquisition on the death of John (IV), which is undated, sets forth that he held in Kinton and Ness four carucates of land in chief by the service of one knight; also the manor of Knockin of the heirs of Robert de Halhtone [Haughton] by service unknown; also the manors of Ruyton and Middle of the heirs of John fitz Alan by service of $2\frac{1}{2}$ knights, but Isabella, the wife of John fitz Alan, is dowered of the said service. Kinton and Ness were worth £10; Knockin £20, and the *Walcheria* de Knockin £30. Ruyton and Middle were worth £30. John, son of the said John, is the heir and of the age of $22\frac{1}{2}$ years.⁵

The Northampton inquisition, which, like all those on John (IV), is undated, states that he held nothing *in capite*, but held of the heirs of Roger de Somery in the manor of Botindon one

¹ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 66.

² *Ibid.* i. 67.

³ *Ibid.*, 1272-1307, i. 67.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, *Edw. I*, 1272-1279, p. 288.

⁵ Chancery Inq. p.m., 4 *Edw. I*, File 14 (4).

messuage worth 2s. per annum, 1 carucate of land with meadow and pasture, and in villeinage 10 virgates, and 30 solidates and 7*d.*, and 'unam sagittam barbatam' of rent, all held in free marriage, rendering nothing.¹

The jurors who sate on the Gloucestershire inquisition say that the said John held of the King in chief in the vill of Campden one messuage, worth by the year 15s., and 2 carucates of arable land, which are worth by the year, with the meadows and pastures adjoining, 10 marks; and in the borough of Campden, of rent assize by the year 23s. 11½*d.*, and 14 virgates of land and 12 acres in villeinage, which are worth by the year £7 7s. 6*d.*: and his part of 4 mills, worth £9: and the pleas and perquisites by the year ½ a mark. Sum, £25 6s. 5½*d.* The said John held nothing of the King in the said county except the said tenement, which he held in chief of the King by barony in pourparty with the heirs of Arundel; and he and the other parceners held the fourth part of all the lands, tenements, and fees which were of the Earl of Arundel, but the jurors do not know how much of the service belongs to the part of the said John in Campden.²

The Norfolk inquest is somewhat defective, but, as Eyton points out, it is of great importance as proving something of what has been asserted above concerning the early history of the family, so I give an extended version of the copy at the Record Office: ³

Inquisitio facta per Adam de Musterell [*and others*] quantum terre Johannes le Estraunge tenuit de domino Rege in capite in comitatu Norfolciensi die quo obiit, et quantum de aliis, et per quod servitium, et quantum terre ille valeant per annum in diversis serviciis, redditibus, villenagiis et omnibus aliis exitibus terre et quis propinquior heres ei sit, et ejus etatis. Qui dicunt [*super*] sacramentum suum quod prefatus Johannes nihil tenuit de domino Rege in capite in comitatu Norfolciensi die quo obiit. Set tenuit manerium [*de*] Hunstanston ex una parte aque de heredibus comitis Arundell per servitium quinque feodorum militum. Et ex altera parte aque [** * **]ina de Milham per servitium feodi unius militis.

Dicunt etiam quod idem Johannes tenuit in dominico suo ^{xx} xv acras terre arabilis quarum quel[*ibet*] acra valet per annum in omnibus exitibus viij denarios, unde summa decem librarum. Item tenuit inde servicia et redditos tam liberorum quam villanorum unde summa est in omnibus exitibus xvij.li. xvj.s. i.d. Item

¹ Chancery Inq. p.m., 4 Edw. I, File 14 (4).

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, 4 Edw. I, File 14 (4); New Calendar II, No. 187.

tenuit molendinum quod valet per annum xl.s. Et idem tenuit pasturam que valet per annum in omnibus exitibus ij.s. Item dicunt quod perquisitum curie valet per annum in omnibus exitibus xx.s. Unde summa summarum xxxj. li., xvij. s., j.d. Item dicunt quod Johannes filius predicti Johannis propinquior heres ejus est. Et credunt ipsum esse etatis xxij annorum et amplius.

It is not impossible from the concluding words that during the few years for which John (IV) held the property he and his son had found little time to reside much at Hunstanton, since the age of the heir was only a matter of hearsay ; yet that John (IV) was there once, at all events, is shown by the deed quoted in Chapter I,¹ in which he mentioned his ancestor Roland ; the fact that the deed, witnessed almost exclusively by Norfolk men, was found in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton is presumptive evidence that it was executed there, and has never since left the place. The considerable amount of land in hand, 300 acres of arable besides pasture, seems to imply the existence of a manor-house requiring a large farm to supply it. The 'water' mentioned in the inquest is of course the small brook rising in the park, which forms the moat and, lower down, the mill waters, and thence runs north-east into the sea at Holme ; this watercourse was the boundary between the two distinct fiefs which were held by John (I), that on one side inherited from his father and held under fitz Alan by the service of five knights' fees ; that on the other inherited from his mother, Matilda le Brun, and held by service of one knight's fee under William de Albini. It would be interesting, but is, I fear, impossible, to ascertain which manor is on which side of the water.

Hamon, the second son of John (III) and Lucy de Tregoz, who died in Palestine, has already been dealt with ; the third son, Roger of Little Ercall and eventually of Ellesmere, lived until 1311, all through the time of his nephew John (V), so his biography will more conveniently be given in the same chapter as that of his nephew. Robert, the fourth son, was the progenitor of the house of Blackmere. It has already been mentioned² that he was in arms with his brothers Hamon and Roger against Simon de Montfort in 1265, and that he was one of the lords Marcher

¹ *Supra*, p. 4.

² *Ibid.*, p. 136.

whom the Earl of Leicester vainly endeavoured to send over to Ireland to get them out of his way. We have also seen ¹ that when Robert went to the Crusade with his brother Hamon, the latter granted to him the manor of Chawton in Hampshire, as well as that of Wrockwardine in Shropshire; and that, more fortunate than his brother, Robert lived to return and enjoy these manors. It was perhaps on his journey home that Robert experienced what was in those days a very serious loss, that of his seal; so much concerned was he lest it should be put to any improper use that he took the trouble to appear at the *Curia Regis* in Michaelmas term 1275, and on his petition the following entry was made in two separate Rolls:

Robertus le Estraunge venit et dicit quod amisit sigillum suum in quo scriptum est ejus nomen, et petit quod si aliquod scriptum decetero fuerit sigillatum predicto sigillo id pro nullo habeatur.²

We may perhaps regard this precaution as being the thirteenth century equivalent of stopping a cheque.

Like his brother Hamon, Robert, after the battle of Evesham, was rewarded for his loyalty to the King by a grant at the expense of one of the rebellious citizens of London. The Patent Roll of October 19 records a grant ³ to Robert le Estraunge of a capital messuage in the City of London, late of John de Turri, the King's enemy. Another entry in the same Roll, on June 28, 1266, shows that Robert was still in the King's good graces, as a pardon is granted at his request to Hugh Corbet for the death of Adam le Ventrer.⁴

The manor of Sutton, with Rowton and Ellardine, had been sold between 1262 and 1269 by Madog de Sutton to John le Strange (III); he enfeoffed his son and heir, John (IV), therein, and the latter granted these manors to his younger brother Robert.⁵ On August 1, 1267, Robert exchanged two of these manors with Giles de Erdington, who granted to him the manor of Marbury,

¹ *Supra*, p. 145.

² *Coram Rege* Rolls, 3 Edw. I, bundle 18, memb. 19; and bundle 19, memb. 2, dorso.

³ *C.P.R. Hen. III*, 1258-1266, p. 468.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 611.

⁵ *Eyton*, ii. 118, 120; *Placite Corone*, 20 Edw. I, Salop, memb. 16, dorso.

in Cheshire, with the land of Halehurst, Salop, for the yearly rent of a rose at midsummer ; in return for which Robert granted to Giles all his land in Rowton and Ellardine for 73s. yearly rent ; the deed was witnessed by Robert's brother Hamon.¹

Another manor given to Robert in reward for his loyalty was that of Wililey or Willey, in Salop ; the previous owner, Andrew de Wililey, had fallen at the battle of Evesham, and Robert le Strange acquired the manor on the terms of the *Dictum de Kenilworth* ; he appears to have held it for about ten years before it was redeemed by Burga, daughter and heiress of Andrew, and wife of William de Stapleton, whose claim to it, mentioned in the Coram Rege Rolls² for 1275, must have been successful, as, after Robert's death in the following year, the Sheriff was ordered to cause an extent to be made of the lands in Wililey, late of Andrew de Wililey, who was slain fighting against Henry III, which lands Robert le Strange held of the gift of that king on the terms of the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, and which lands were in the King's hands on account of Robert's debts ; the Sheriff was directed to deliver to William de Stapleton, whose son had taken to wife the daughter and heir of the said Andrew, the said lands to be tilled and sown during the King's pleasure, the Sheriff answering yearly for the said extent.³ On January 18, 1278, the Sheriff was ordered to deliver these lands to Philip and Burga.⁴

On his return from the Crusade Robert took measures to obtain seisin of the manors which he had acquired from his brother Hamon. The deed, already mentioned, by which the latter made over to him the Hampshire manor of Chawton is undated, but an entry in the 'Calendarium Genealogicum'⁵ shows that Robert was enfeoffed therein in the Holy Land. Wrockwardine had been made over before the brothers started for Palestine ; but after Hamon's death in 1274 the Sheriff took possession of it on the ground that it had been alienated without licence ; it was held for the King for about two years, but on May 23, 1275, John le Strange (IV) of Knockin quitclaimed any right that he had

¹ *Cal. Anc. Deeds, P.R.O.*, iii. 432, D, 227.

² 3 Edw. I, bundle 16, memb. 15.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 76.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 91.

⁵ *Cal. Gen. Hen. III and Edw. I*, i. 227, No. 52.

in the manor to his brother Robert ;¹ and on June 10 following the Sheriff of Salop was ordered to deliver it to Robert, to be held by him in chief by the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee, and at the farm due at the Exchequer, he having done homage for it.² Robert only survived his eldest brother, John (IV) of Knockin, for about a year : the latter was drowned, as we have seen, in the autumn of 1275, and Robert died before September, 1276, as on the 10th of that month the Sheriff of Southampton was ordered to cause Eleanor, late the wife of Robert le Estraunge, tenant-in-chief, to have yearly £30 of the manor of Chawton, which belonged to Robert, as the King has committed the said land to her until dower is assigned ; the whole manor had been extended at £40.³ The wife of Robert le Strange was Alianora, or Eleanor, second daughter and co-heiress of William de Whitchurch [*de Albo Monasterio*], from whom he ultimately acquired and transmitted to his descendants a considerable inheritance ; William, who died before June 11, 1260, left four daughters ; the eldest, Berta, was an imbecile, and died in 1281 ;⁴ the fourth of the manor of Whitchurch, which had escheated to the King by reason of her imbecility, was granted by him to her sister Eleanor to hold at will at a rent of £17 12s. per annum.⁵ The third daughter, Johanna, married William de Barentyn ; and Matilda, the youngest, was the wife of Robert de Brascy. Fulk, the son of Robert le Strange and Alianora, eventually inherited his mother's third of Whitchurch, and apparently purchased the two other thirds, as at his death in 1324 the inquest finds him to have been seised of the whole manor. Shortly after Robert's death his widow married Bogo de Knovill, then Sheriff of Shropshire, but had no issue by him. Eyton, to whom I am indebted for most of these particulars,⁶ mentions that she was buried at High Ercall, and that she was probably living in 1301, but died before 1306 ; he says that—

‘ Her monument consists of a slab of grey marble, sometime inlaid with

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272–1279, p. 237.

² *C.F.R.*, 1272–1307, i. 48.

³ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272–1279, p. 309 ; *C.P.R.*, 1272–1281, p. 442.

⁴ *C.I.P.M.*, *Edw. I*, ii. 226, No. 387.

⁵ *C.F.R.*, i. 127 ; *C.P.R.*, 1272–1281, p. 375.

⁶ *x.* 21–25.

a fleury cross and two shields of arms, but the brasswork of these is gone. Her epitaph remains :

DAME ALIANORE LESTRANGE DE BLANCMINSTER GIST ICI. DIEU DE SA ALME
EIT MERCI.

That Alianora's monument existed in High Ercall Church when Eyton wrote in 1860 there can be little doubt, but it is a matter of deep regret to have to record that when I visited the church in September 1915 not a trace of it was to be found. The church was restored in 1864-5, under the direction of the late George Edmund Street, R.A., an architect of the highest repute, and it is unthinkable that he could have failed to preserve an ancient monument such as this, had it then been *in situ* ; yet careful inquiries on the spot have been unsuccessful in eliciting any information from anyone who remembers it, or can throw any light on its disappearance. Fortunately a good water-colour sketch of it exists in the British Museum, among the *Drawings of Ancient Monuments in Shropshire, 1792-1803*, by the Rev. Edward Williams,¹ which in every respect confirms Eyton's description, and further mentions that the slab of marble was situated 'towards the east end of the north aisle.'

Robert le Strange at his death left three sons, John, Fulk, and Robert, all of them under age, in consequence of which the escheator took possession of his lands in the King's name,² regardless of the fact that the two younger sons had been enfeoffed during their father's lifetime in certain of his manors. John, the eldest son, inherited Wrockwardine, but the custody of that manor was committed by the King to Anian, Bishop of St. Asaph, at an annual fee-farm rent of £8, until John should be of full age.³ He made proof of age in September 1287, and had livery of his paternal inheritance,⁴ but died without issue in less than two years ; the writ of *Diem clausit* is dated June 18, 1289, and the inquisitions find that his heir was his brother Fulk, then twenty-one or twenty-two years of age.⁵ This John of Wrockwardine is usually styled Lord of Whitchurch, which, as Eyton points out,⁶ is inaccurate ;

¹ Add. MSS. 21,236, vol. i. 129.

³ *Rot. Orig. in Scacc.*, i. 27a.

⁵ Inq. p.m., 17 Edw. I, No. 17.

² *C.F.R.*, i. 260.

⁴ Inq. 15 Edw. I, File 49 (13).

⁶ x. 23.

his mother, whose inheritance it was, was alive at the time of his death, and he consequently was never seised of Whitchurch.

On July 16, 1289, the escheator was ordered to deliver to Fulk, brother and heir of John, the lands of his late brother ;¹ Fulk obtained a writ of *Certiorari* to the escheator of Salop on complaining of the seizure of the manor of Sutton Madock into the King's hands; an inquest was held on September 25, 1276, and the jurors found that Robert, before he took his journey to the Holy Land, had enfeoffed his son Fulk in that manor, and that the latter had had peaceful seisin ever since, until it was taken by the King, and that the worth of the manor was £12 7s. 9½d.² On this the Sheriff was directed on October 2 to cause Fulk to have again seisin of the manor of Sutton Madock, together with everything received thence since it was taken into the King's hands.³ Another mandate was sent on the same day to the same Sheriff to cause Eleanor, late the wife of Robert le Strange, to have again seisin of the manor of Whitchurch, as the King learns by inquisition of the Sheriff that Robert held it as the inheritance of Eleanor.⁴

The only sons of Robert le Strange and Eleanor of Whitchurch mentioned by Eyton are John and Fulk, but the Rolls show that there was a third son, Robert, who like his brothers had been enfeoffed during his father's lifetime. On the father's death the Justice of Chester was directed to take his lands into the King's hands,⁵ owing to the minority of his heir. Robert protested, as his brothers had done; an inquisition was consequently held on November 24, 1276,⁶ at which the jury found that Robert held no land in chief on the day of his death, but some time before held the manor of Merburi of Henry de Erdington for one knight's fee by service of a rose on St. John the Baptist's day, but in his lifetime had enfeoffed his son Robert thereof by charter; that the latter was in peaceful seisin thereof until it was taken by the King, and that it was worth £8 per annum: further, that John, son of Robert deceased, was his

¹ *C.F.R.*, i. 263.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 311.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 73.

⁴ *Chanc. Inq. p.m.*, Edw. I, File 12 (4).

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Inq. Edw. I*, File 12 (5).

heir, but they did not know his age, because he did not dwell within the county of Chester. I have come across no other mention of this Robert, but an entry in the Fine Rolls of January 19, 1278, shows that on that date the manor of Merbury was committed to Eleanor, late the wife of Robert le Strange, tenant-in-chief, to hold at the King's will, so that she answer for it yearly at the Exchequer of Chester : ¹ possibly this grant was made in consequence of the death of Robert junior, and will account for his name not occurring again. A Robert le Strange, however, who may perhaps be this same individual, was among those who in 1313 obtained a pardon as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster.²

An inquest of February 8, 1278, was held in the Hampshire manor of Chawton, which Robert senior had acquired from his brother Hamon ; the King's steward was directed to inquire who had intruded therein, to the prejudice of the King and the disinheriting of the said Robert's heir, who was within age, and in the King's wardship ; the jury found that Robert had enfeoffed Hugh de Cheney of 194½ acres of land, and 100s. rent in Katerinton, saving to him and his heirs homage, suits of court, and all escheats from the said 100s. rent, but that after Robert's death Hugh had appropriated to himself the said suits and escheats, to the value of 20s. yearly, and had also intruded on a hill pasture and an underwood called Lythes, the herbage of which was worth 5s. yearly.³

Professor Tout has called my attention to the omission from all le Strange pedigrees of Margaret, daughter of John le Strange, who is mentioned in the Welsh Rolls ; she married Rhys, ap Gruffydd, ap Ednyved Vychan, and received from her husband a grant of the lordship of Trevgarnedd in Anglesey. On April 20, 1284, the King allows her this lordship for life, though not regarding the grant as stable or firm.⁴ Ednyved Vychan, her husband's grandfather, was Llewelyn ap Iorwerth's right-hand man and steward. Rhys himself was alive on May 4, 1284, when the Earl of Lincoln was ordered to deliver his inheritance so far as it was in Llewelyn's cantred of Rhos.⁵ Rhys had then just done homage

¹ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 90.

² *C. Edw. I*, File 20 (20).

³ *Parl. Writs*, Sir F. Palgrave, ii. Div. 3, 1471.

⁴ *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 285.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 293.

for his lands, and entered on his inheritance. Rhys ap Gruffydd and Margaret le Strange had a son, known as Gruffydd Llwyd, wrongly celebrated as a Bardic hero, who in reality was Edward II's right-hand man in North Wales, and defeated Mortimer of Chirk in 1311-2. This Margaret is not mentioned by Eyton, or in any printed record that I have seen, but it looks as if she must have been a daughter of John le Strange (IV) of Knockin, and I venture to include her as such, provisionally, in the pedigree.

Mention occurs of the following le Stranges during the period covered by this chapter.

LE STRANGE OF EAST WALTON.

The collection of Sir Henry Dering, Bart., of Surrenden-Dering, in Kent, contains ten charters of early date, which prove that a branch of the le Stranges held land for several generations, approximately from 1228 to 1348, in the parish of East Walton, near Westacre, Norfolk; a well-indexed transcript of ten of these charters exists in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton.¹ Blomefield mentions ² that the family gave their name to a manor there, which he says was called Strange's, from William le Strange, who held it in the reign of Henry III, by the fourth part of a knight's fee, of the heirs of Ralph de Beaufoe, the Domesday tenant; he also says that in the 20th of Edward III Robert le Strange held it of Hubert de Rye, and that the manor passed during the same reign to Sir John Howard, and was subsequently known as Howard's and Strange's manor.

Of the Dering charters the six first are undated; of these the first is a grant from Saxi de Fonte of Walton to Roger le Strange, son of Benedict, of a perch and a half of land abutting on Benedict's land in Walton. I am unable to identify any of the witnesses; they appear to be local neighbours.

The second deed is an exchange of three acres in Walton field

¹ [P. 17.]

² ix. 146.

between William, prior of Westacre, and the canons, and Ida, wife of Benedict le Strange : the first witness is Ralph le Strange. Blomefield¹ says that William was prior of Westacre in 12 Henry III, which would give 1228 as the approximate date of the charter.

No. 3 is a sale of a small piece of land in East Walton field ; among the witnesses are '*Witto Exstraneo de Est Walton*,' and Alexander de Butterwyk ; the latter name occurs in a Fine of 22 Edward I (1294), quoted by Blomefield,² but at that period deeds were usually dated, so I incline to think that the Alexander who tested the Dering charter was not the same individual as the witness to the Fine.

No. 4 is a grant from Peter Chiping to William le Strange, both of East Walton, of 5½*d.* annual rent and certain homages and services therein ; the first attestation is by Alexander de Butterwick, so this deed must be of about the same date as the last.

No. 5 is a sale of a messuage and croft by Nicholas Schreue to Roger, son of Roger le Strange of East Walton, for 20 marks. The two first witnesses are John Howard and William le Strange ; the first of these was probably Sir John Howard of Wighall, ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk, who died in 1331.

By the 6th charter, Thomas, Richard, and Sabina de Ratlesdene quitclaim certain lands in East Walton, sold by them to William le Strange of that place. Here again the first witness is Alexander de Butterwyk ; he is followed by John and Richard Boys, or de Bosco, whose niece married Sir John Howard, jun., who was Sheriff of Norfolk in 1345.

The next charter, No. 7, is the first that has a date, viz. October 20, 1316. It is a grant by Roger le Strange, perpetual vicar of the church of East Walton, of a messuage and croft there to Richard Waryn of Grimston and Isabella his wife. The first witness is Roger, son of William le Strange of East Walton.

No. 8, dated January 6, 1318, is a grant by Henry fitz Ralph to Roger de Priketone of a rood of land in East Walton, the first witness being Roger le Strange.

¹ ix. 160.

² v. 239.

By No. 9, dated June 29, 1348, Margaret, widow of Roger Zoel, or Yol, of Aylesswethesthorp,¹ quitclaims to Thomas, son of Roger le Strange of East Walton, two acres of land therein.

The tenth and last of these Dering charters is dated January 29, 1349, and is a grant by Hugo Edward of Thorp, chaplain, to Mirielle, widow of Roger Sad of East Walton, and his daughter Helewisa, of a messuage and certain lands thereat, some of which abut on land of Roger Straunge. The grant is witnessed by Roger le Strange and William le Strange.

Two charters in the British Museum supply a little more evidence about these East Walton le Stranges. One is an undated charter of Andrew Conteshale, of East Walton, granting a piece of arable land to Roger, son of Roger le Strange and Martin his nephew, of the same place. The two first witnesses to this grant are Alexander de Butterwyk and William le Strange.² This does not clear up the relationship between Roger the son of Roger and William.

The second deed is a grant from Thomas Gadergod of East Walton, dated on May 5, 1312, to Matilda, late the wife of William le Strange of that place, and Roger his son of certain herbage and pasture there.³ This lady occurs again in a Fine of July 1, 1327, between Roger Petigard, jun., and Matilda, late the wife of William le Strange, and Roger le Strange and William his son, concerning certain lands and tenements in Bilney, Westacre, and Gaytonthorpe, which Roger le Strange granted to Roger Petigard.⁴

On June 2, 1353, William le Strange gave by Fine 30 marks of silver to John, son of Thomas de Apelton and Cristiana his wife for some 20 acres of land in East Walton and Westacre.⁵

The 'Feudal Aids' for 1302 record that William le Strange and his tenants hold the fourth part of a knight's fee in East Walton of

¹ This is not Ashwellthorpe, near Wymondham, but appears to be an old name of Gaytonthorpe, the next parish to the north of East Walton.

² B.M. Harl. Chart. 48, G. 45.

³ *Ibid.*, 50, F, 26.

⁴ P.R.O. Feet of Fines, 2 Edw. III, Case 164, File 144, No. 31.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 27 Edw. III, Case 166, File 161, No. 875.

the heirs of Beaumund ;¹ and also that in 1346 Roger le Straunge holds the fourth part of a knight's fee in East Walton of Hugh de Ry, of which the Prior of Westacre holds a third part, which fee William le Straunge formerly held.²

The 'Feudal Aids' of the same year, 1346, contain several entries concerning Roger le Straunge and Joan his wife ; but whether this Roger is identical with Roger of East Walton I am not sure, though it seems probable. The entries are as follows :

A.D. 1346. Hundr. de Deppewade. Dominus Rogerus le Straunge et Johanna uxor ejus tenent in Fundenhale unum feodum militis de heredibus comitis Marescalli, et iidem de Rege, quod Johannes de Thorp quondam tenuit . . . xl.s.

Idem Rogerus et Johanna uxor ejus tenent in Assewell Thorp unum feodum militis de Roberto de Benhale et Eva uxore ejus, et iidem de Rege quod Johannes de Thorp quondam tenuit . . . xl.s.³

A.D. 1346. Hundr. de Gildecrosse. Rogerus le Straunge et Johanna uxor ejus tenent in Wreningham unum feodum militis de Johanne Bardolf, et idem de Rege, quod Johannes de Thorp quondam tenuit . . . xl.s.⁴

The above-named Joan was daughter and heiress of Roger atte Eshe. She married, firstly, John de Thorp of Ashwellthorpe, who died in 1340, [and secondly, in 1345, Roger le Strange who, Blomefield says, was lord of Ashwellthorpe in her right.⁵

The Patent Rolls of September 8, 1367, contain letters nominating attorneys in England for one year for John le Strange of East Walton, who is going on a pilgrimage beyond seas by the King's licence.⁶ In the Close Rolls of August 28, 1376, is entered a charter of John le Strange, lord of Walton, granting to Roger le Strange, Philip, Vicar of Wellesborne, and William de Offechirche, all the lands which he, the said John le Strange, had in Alcrynton, Balscote, and Wroxton, co. Oxford ; Shenyndon, co. Gloucester ; Tysho, Pylardynton, and Lockeleye, co. Warwick ; Totebache, Bradele, Evesham, and Goldecote, co. Worcester.⁷

¹ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, iii. 408.

³ *Ibid.* p. 528.

⁵ Blomefield, v. 145.

⁷ *C. Cl. R.*, *Edw. III.*, xiv. 455 and 461.

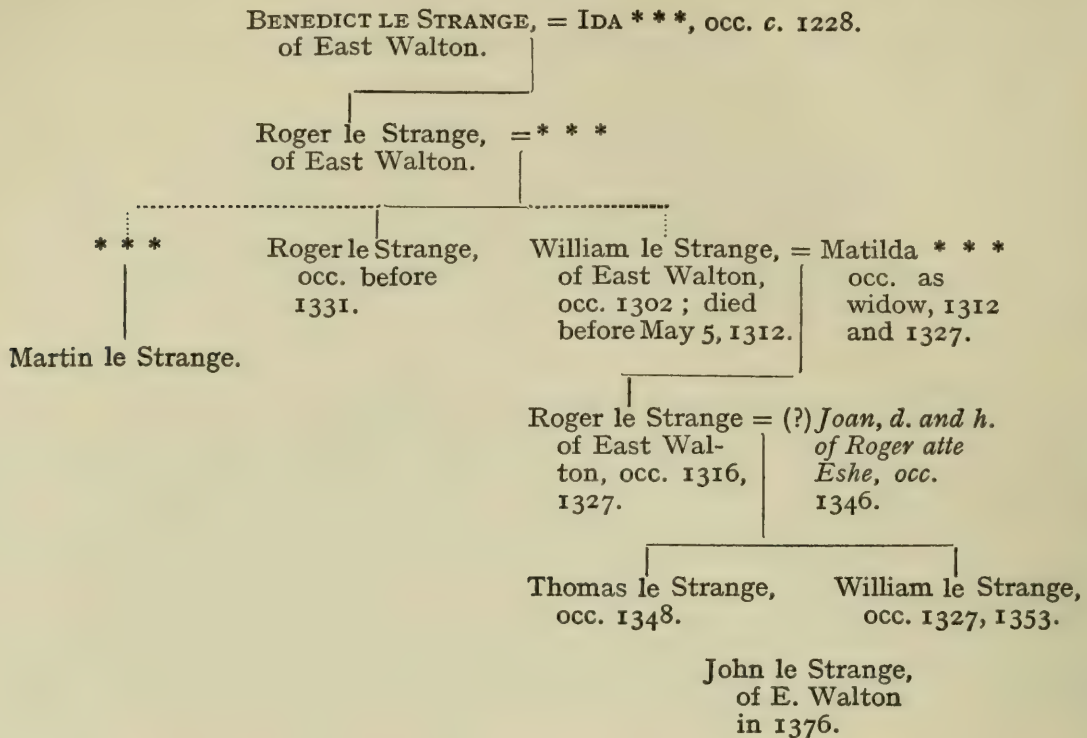
² *Ibid.* p. 523.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 532.

⁶ *C.P.R. Edw. III.*, xiv. 5.

LE STRANGE RECORDS

The pedigree deducible from these documents is as follows :



The accounts of the chamberlain of the Corporation of Lynn for 20-21 Edward III (1346-7) contain the following entries,¹ which may refer to some of the above members of the East Walton branch of the family:

Itm r^o de xx^s. dat Johi Straunge. Exp^s. forinsecorum.
 Itm r^o de iiij^s. x^d. in expens'. Wal^o del Hay t Johi Straunge.
 Itm r^o de vj^s. viij^d. soluto Wiffo Straunge p labor' suo.
 Itm r^o de xiiij^s. iiij. dat Wiffo Straunge pro feodo suo.

EMMA LE STRANGE.

Emma le Strange is known to me only from the following entry in the *Testa de Nevill*,² which may refer to any time during the reigns of Henry III and Edward I:

Feoda que tenentur in capite de domino rege in comitatu Essex et Herts.
 Emma Extranea tenet in Sturemere feodum dimidii militis.

¹ Lynn, Chamberlain's Accounts, E, a 12, 20-21 Edw. III.

² P. 266.

HUGH LE STRANGE.

A Hugh le Strange has been mentioned ¹ as occurring in the neighbourhood of Knockin in the early part of the thirteenth century. Eyton shows ² that a Hugh, whose relationship to John le Strange he cannot certify, held land at Berrington, a few miles to the south-east of Shrewsbury, and he thinks that there may have been two persons of the name of Hugh, who were tenants there under the elder house of le Strange; one of them had a brother named John. In or about the year 1240 Hugh was dead, and his inheritance was divided among females; this is shown by two entries in the *Testa de Nevill*,³ which record that Roger Sprinchose and the heirs of Hugh le Strange hold a knight's fee in *Binton* or *Biriton*—i.e. Berrington. Eyton has little to say about the co-parceners of Berrington, except one of them, who was a William fitz Alan.

LE STRANGE OF OSWESTRY.

Eyton, quoting from the Haughmond Chartulary,⁴ says that John le Strange, a burgess and Provost of Oswestry, witnessed a charter on April 2, 1258, in a full court of Oswestry Hundred. About the same date he also attested a grant of land in Aston to Haughmond Abbey.⁵ Eyton also mentions that, within a few years of 1292, Richard le Strange was one of the co-tenants, along with the abbot of Haughmond, of Aston, which lies between Oswestry and Knockin.⁶ Richard must have died soon after this date, as a memorandum in the Leiger-book of Shrewsbury Abbey, concerning the tithes of certain lands belonging to the parish church of *Oswalster*, mentions the crofts of the late Richard Straunge.⁷ An inquest, taken at Oswestry after the death of Richard, Earl of Arundel, on May 18, 1302, names Juliana, William, and John le Strange among the burgesses of that town.⁸

¹ *Supra*, p. 35.

² Pp. 48 and 50.

³ Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 8-22.

⁴ *Ibid.* x. 342.

⁵ vi. 35, 36.

⁶ xi. 9.

⁷ Eyton, xi. 13.

⁸ *Ibid.* x. 334.

JOHN, SON OF RALPH LE STRANGE.

A John, son of Ralph le Strange, appears in the county of Hertford in the year 1272, as is shown by the following extract from the Fine Rolls of Henry III :

Hertf'. Johannes filius Radulphi le Estraunge dat dimidiam marcam pro uno brevi ad terminam habendo. Et mandatum est Vicecomiti Hertfordie. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, xxx die Julii anno regni lvi^o.¹

It seems scarcely probable that this John is identical with John, son of Ralph le Strange of Litcham, who occurs in 1259 and 1293.²

STEPHEN LE STRANGE.

The Hundred Rolls mention a Stephen le Strange in the inquisitions taken in the 4th of Edward I (1275-6) :

Ebor'. Wappentake de Rydal. De Sectis. Stephanus le Straunge subtraxit sectam et unum diem per idem tempus de una bovata in Amubdeby [*Amotherby*, near Malton].³

WILLIAM LE STRANGE OF DEVON.

A fee belonging to William le Strange in Devonshire is noted in the *Testa de Nevill* as paying two marks towards the Aid given to the King in that county in the 21st of Edward I (1292-3).⁴ This William appears again at the Devonshire inquisition, held on September 1, 1289, for proof of age of Alan, son and heir of Roger la Zouche ; William Extraneus, knight, agrees as to the proof of age, for Alan's father made him a knight sixteen years ago last Christmas, when Alan, then six years old, carried the sword before him.⁵

A William le Strange is mentioned in the Patent Rolls of July

¹ *Excerpta e Rot. Fin. Hen. III*, curâ Car. Roberts, ii. 574.

² *Supra*, p. 53.

³ *Rot. Hundr. temp. Hen. III et Edw. I*, i. 117a.

⁴ *Testa de Nevill*, p. 188.

⁵ *Inq. Edw. I*, File 55 (5).

18, 1282, in a complaint from Walter de Kancia, that Richard de Ernesley, knight, and many others, entered his house at Newton Harcourt, co. Leicester, by night, carried away his goods, and assaulted his men.¹ It may have been this William who came to an untimely end in 1298, as appears by a pardon, granted to Robert Poygne on September 16, by reason of his services in Scotland, for the death of William Lestrangle.²

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 47.

² *Ibid.* p. 361.

PEDIGREE No. VI.

JOHN LE STRANGE (IV) = JOAN DE SOMERY,
succeeded 1269; *ob.* 1275. *mar^d circa* 1253;
superstes 1282.

1st wife:
Alianora * * *
occ. 1276.

= John le Strange (V),
aged 22½ at his
father's death in
1275; 1st Lord
Strange of Knoc-
kin; summd. to
Parlt., 1299; *ob.*
1309.

2nd wife.
= Maud, d. and h. of
Roger d'Eiville,
of Walton d'Ei-
ville, Warwick-
shire; occ. 1299;
superstes 1309.

2nd husband.

Margaret le Strange, = Rhys ap Griffith,
occ. 1284. ap Ednyved
Vychan.

I.

John le Strange (VI), = Isolda * * *
2nd Lord Strange of
Knockin; *b.* May
18, 1282.

2.

Hamon le S. = Margaret,
enfeoffed in
Hunstan-
ton, 1310.

3.

Eubulo le S. = Alice de Lacy,
ob.s.p.
1335.

Countess of
Lincoln; *ob.*
Oct. 2, 1348.

Elizabeth le S. = Griffith ap Madog
m. July 8,
1304. of Glyndyvrddwy.

↓
Their grandson was Owen Glendower.

CHAPTER VI

JOHN LE STRANGE (V)

1275-1309

THE Shropshire and Norfolk inquisitions show that John le Strange (V) was twenty-two years of age when his father was accidentally drowned in the Severn in the autumn of 1275, though it was not until May of the following year that he obtained seisin of his father's lands, and did homage for them to the King. Of his three uncles, Hamon, the crusader, had died two years before in the Holy Land; Robert, also a crusader, had returned home, but died a few months later, in 1276, leaving three sons, John, Fulk, and Robert, the second of whom was eventually the first baron of the house of Blackmere. The only uncle left alive was Roger le Strange of Ellesmere, who, as we shall see, took a prominent part in the Welsh wars of Edward I, and ultimately added to the family honours a third summons to Parliament as a baron.

Like his father and his grandfather, John (V) was a benefactor to the Shropshire Abbey of Haughmond. One of his earliest acts, after coming into possession of his lands, being to grant to that abbey rents in Kinton to the value of 40*d*.¹ He was twice married; of his first wife, who apparently had no children, nothing but the Christian name, Alianora, has come down to us; this is mentioned in a curious exchange, entered on the Plea Rolls at Trinity, 1276,² between John le Strange and his wife Alianora,

¹ Harl. MSS. 2022.

² *Abbrev. Placit. Ric. I-Edw. II*, p. 190b.

of the one part, and John's mother, Joan de Somery, of the other, which is thus summarised by Eyton :

Joan de Somery settles the manor and advowson of Midelton (Cambridgeshire) on John and Alianora, and the heirs of John by Alianora, but, in default of such heirs, with remainder to Joan. In return, John le Strange gives to Joan the value of half Midelton, to be taken out of his manor of Hunstanston, and 100 solidates of land and rents elsewhere, to hold to Joan for her life. If Hunstanston proved non-equivalent to half Midelton, the overplus, if any, was to remain with John le Strange, or the deficiency, if any, was to be made good to Joan out of Le Strange's nearest estates. On Joan's death, and also on Alianora's death, without issue, Hunstanston was to revert to Le Strange. The advowson and capital Messuages of either manor were to pass in exchange, as if equal, and were not to be extended.¹

An inquest, taken at Cambridge in the 7th of Edward I (1278-9), shows that John le Strange held two knights' fees at Middleton in that county of Simon de Insula, at a rent of a pair of gilt spurs worth 6*d.*, and payment of scutage to Simon ; also a fishery worth 20*s.* per annum, view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and beer, with rights of warren in his lands.

John's second wife was Maud, daughter and heiress of Roger d'Eiville, of Walton d'Eiville, Warwickshire, in right of whom he held that manor, which afterwards passed to their heir. Maud, as we shall see, survived her husband.

An early Roll of tenants *in capite*, and sub-tenants in Shropshire, *temp.* Edw. I, from the collection of Edward Lloyd,² gives the following information as to the possessions of John le Strange. He held the manor of Wrockwardine with its members—viz. Admaston, Aldescote, Leyton, Barcote, Ness, Clotley, and Walcote—of the King at an annual rent of £8 ; of these members Hugh Burnell held some rents in Admaston, the abbot of Haughmond held Walcote in free alms, and Ralph de Clotley held that vill of the said John, who held the rest of the manor, and had his court there, with pleas of bloodshed, hue and cry, and gallows, which he used. The manor of Ness was also held by him in chief, by the service of one knight for fifteen days in time of war. The

¹ Eyton, x. 278 ; Rot. Claus. 2 Edw. I, m. 10.

² *Coll. Top. and Gen.* i. 115-120.

manor of Middle he held of John Fitz Alan, by the service of the fourth part of a knight at Oswestry in time of war.

Young John le Strange succeeded to his border inheritance at a troublous time. The treaty of 1267 with Llewelyn was a truce rather than a peace, and the Welsh prince had availed himself of Edward's four years' absence from England to strengthen himself and prolong the unrest : he refused to pay homage to the King on his return, and his evasions and aggressions provoked the latter to declare war against the Welsh in November, 1276. A clear view of the campaigns, which ended in the subjugation of the principality to the English Crown, will be found in Mr. John E. Morris's 'Welsh Wars of Edward I,' which is based on original documents, and has special reference to mediæval military history.¹ For many months preparations were made on a very large scale ; Edward had already had experience of the difficulties of attacking a mountainous country like Wales, and knew that the invasion of Snowdonia was no light task. His feudal forces were summoned to Worcester on July 1, 1277, as Llewelyn had been most aggressive on the middle March of Powys, Radnor, and Salop. This was precisely the country where the le Stranges possessed most influence, and among those who were summoned to Worcester were John, the young lord of Knockin, and his uncle, Roger of Ellesmere. The latter, on November 16, 1276, had letters of protection until Michaelmas, for going on the King's special affairs to the March.² Both of them had been ordered to prohibit their vassals from furnishing provisions or supplies to the Welsh rebels ;³ and the Patent Rolls show that on May 27, 1277, John had letters of protection for going to Wales on the King's service.⁴ The two le Stranges served under Roger de Mortimer in the army of the middle March, which drove Llewelyn out of Shropshire and reoccupied Powysland. Mr. John Morris makes an interesting point in saying that, with Edward's Welsh wars, the age of the foot-archer is dawning, and that the battles

¹ Oxford, 1901.

² *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 171 ; Close Rolls, 5 Edw. I, memb. 12, d.

³ *Parl. Writ*, tested at Cirencester, Dec. 28, 195, No. 3.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 210.

of Evesham and Lewes were the last in which the heavily mailed horseman was quite supreme. In the war of 1277 the infantry from the border counties was composed of both *sagittarii* and *lanceati*, the latter being footmen armed with spears. The bow shown in the Bayeux tapestry, and in use up to the time of Henry III, was the weak short-bow, pulled only to the chest; it was the long-bow, pulled to the ear, which, adopted and improved by Edward I and his grandson, eventually made the English infantry a real power in Europe.

Shortly after the date of the muster at Worcester, Bogo de Knovill, Sheriff of Shropshire, left Oswestry to join the King, and Roger le Strange was brought from Derbyshire, where for some years he had been constable of the Castle of the Peak, and was placed in Bogo's stead as constable of Oswestry Castle on July 17, 1277; the castle of Dinas Bran, on the middle Dee, opposite Llangollen, was also committed to him at a salary of £100, so that he could be within easy touch of headquarters at Chester, which was King Edward's base during the early stages of the war.¹ On the same day authority was given to Roger le Strange to receive into the King's peace, until August 15, all Welsh willing to come in, after first receiving security for their good behaviour.² Roger de Mortimer was informed of these dispositions, and that Roger le Strange and his nephew had been ordered 'to be intendant' to him when necessary.³

It was about this time that Roger's brother-in-law, Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, quarrelled with Llewelyn, and transferred his homage to the Crown; he was restored as Prince of Upper Powys, not however with full and independent power, but as a vassal of England, under the control of le Strange as representative of the King.⁴ Meanwhile, during the summer of 1277, Edward having closed in Llewelyn's country on the south and east, marched slowly round it to the north, to a 'camp near Basingwork,' where he stayed a month and began building at once a new castle, called *Le Flint* (i.e. *La Roche*), by August 23. He thence moved to

¹ C.P.R., 1272-1281, p. 223; *Pipe Roll*, 12 Edw. I, under 'Wardrobe'; *Parl. Writs*, 1277.

² C.P.R., 1272-1281, p. 219. ³ C. Cl. R., 1272-1279, p. 398. ⁴ *Supra*, p. 111.

Rhuddlan, where he also began building a new castle, and finally to Conway, where he was in touch with his fleet, by the help of which he was able to seize the island of Anglesey, the granary of Wales ; Llewelyn was thus brought to bay in his mountain stronghold, and, cut off from help on every side, was obliged to surrender on November 6, and to abandon all his territories except the district of Snowdon and the isle of Anglesey. The conditions were fixed and homage done at Rhuddlan. Among the terms of peace was the transference of the homage of the Welsh barons (including Griffith of Upper Powys), from Llewelyn to the King. Llewelyn went to London for the Christmas Parliament, but only remained there a fortnight,¹ and there was no more talk of further conditions until his marriage at Worcester in the following year. The feudal forces were dismissed, and some who had performed more than the forty days' service due from them received special rewards to drink the King's health (*ad potandum*), which are solemnly entered in the Pipe Rolls and other Exchequer accounts ; for instance, a batch of 250 archers from the lands of John le Strange and Lewis de la Pole received 38s. 4*d.*, which works out at nearly 2*d.* each, or a day's pay.²

On January 4, 1278, Roger le Strange was associated with Guncelin de Badlesmere, Justice of Chester, and three others, to receive an oath from Llewelyn's men, to take hostages from him, to release prisoners, and to see what lands were to be assigned by Llewelyn as dowry to Eleanor de Montfort, his affianced bride ;³ Eleanor, when on her way to marry him in 1275, had been captured at sea by one of the King's ships, and Edward had refused to allow her to be ransomed ; she remained under restraint at Queen Eleanor's Court until after the peace. In 1278 she accompanied the King and Queen to Worcester, where the marriage took place on October 13. For five years there was peace on the Welsh border, and the interval was employed by Edward in completing the erection of the strong castles begun in 1277 ; the north was secured by new fortresses at Flint, Rhuddlan, Conway, and Car-

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, art. on 'Llewelyn,' by Professor Tout, xxxiv. 13.

² Morris's *Welsh Wars*, 139.

³ Rot. Wall. 6 Edw. I, m. 11 ; *Cal. Chan. Rolls*, various, p. 162.

narvon ; the west by Harlech, Bere, and Criccieth ; while in the middle March the chief interest attaches to Builth, which occupied a central position of great importance ; on the east it had easy access to Mortimer's Shropshire fief ; on the south its possession closed any advance from Brecon or Hereford ; on the west it commanded the road to Llandovery and the castles of South Wales ; while on the north it gave access up the valley of the Wye to the strongholds of the Snowdon country, and was an important post for checking raids from that direction. Twenty years previously Builth had been wrested from Mortimer by Llewelyn, who entirely destroyed the old castle and abandoned the site. Edward recognised its importance, and in 1277 began the construction of a new castle which took five years to build. The Exchequer accounts¹ show that there was a great central tower with six smaller towers in the curtain, and that the entrance was guarded by two more large towers ; there was also a hall, chapel, and stables ; its value is attested by the fact that it was never captured, though surrounded by the forces of Llewelyn when he invaded the valley of the upper Wye in his last campaign. Yet of all these buildings scarcely a stone remains *in situ*, though the lofty earthworks and deep fosses indicate the plan, and bear witness to the former strength of this advanced outpost among the Welsh hills.

The services of John le Strange in the first Welsh war were recognised by a grant from the King, dated January 10, 1278, remitting £200, wherein he was bound at the Exchequer for the debts of John his father and his ancestors,² 'as the King has pardoned him this sum for his grateful service.' On February 5 the King wrote a warm letter of thanks to him for the spontaneous services which he had rendered over and above those due from him by his feudal tenure, 'non ratione alicuius servicii nobis ad præsens debiti, sed sponte et gracie.'³ The discharge of those services involved le Strange in considerable expenses, which the income of his lands was not sufficient to meet, and the Close Rolls show that he was obliged to have recourse to borrowing. On

¹ See Morris's *Welsh Wars*, pp. 147-148.

² *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 252.

³ Morris's *Welsh Wars*, p. 121, from *Parl. Writs*, i. 196.

June 25, 1280, he acknowledged that he owed £12 to John de Ubbeston, to be levied in default on his lands in Norfolk and Salop ; and another entry on the same day shows that he had borrowed £23 from Acius Jacobin of Florence and Pelegrin de Kyatrino of Lucca, secured on his lands in Cambridgeshire.¹ On October 6 following he acknowledged a debt of 35 marks to Richard della Rohere, to be levied in default on his lands, &c., in co. Salop ; ² and also 16 marks to Philip de Belvaco, secured on his lands in Herefordshire and Salop ; ³ again, an entry of December 15, 1281, records a debt of 27 marks to Nutus de Florencia, merchant, to be levied in default on lands in Salop.⁴ Altogether in eighteen months he had raised £87, equivalent to over £3000 at the present day.

John's mother, Joan de Somery, was still alive at this period, and apparently had the Norfolk property in dower ; a commission of *oyer and terminer* was issued on January 15, 1281, touching the persons who cut off and carried away part of a whale which had been cast ashore at Thornham and Titchwell, as the wreck of Isabella de Albini, Countess of Arundel. This was Isabel de Warenne, wife of Hugh de Albini, last Earl of Arundel of his line, and brother of Joan's mother, Nicola de Albini. At the same time a commission was issued to extend the manor of Hunstanton, held by Joan de Somery.⁵ A grant was made to Joan on April 10, 1282, of the goods of James Elfrych of Hunstanton, forfeited to the King by reason of a felony for which he had abjured the realm.⁶

We now come to the second Welsh war of 1282-3, which resulted in the death of Llewelyn, and the subjugation of the principality to the English Crown. In this campaign Roger le Strange took no inconsiderable part. For five years Welsh grievances had smouldered, gradually becoming more acute, owing chiefly to the rough conduct of the English officials, and resentment at their interference with native laws and customs. Llewelyn and his brother David became reconciled, and attempted to recover their independence. On March 22, 1282, they swooped

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, pp. 58-59.

² *Ibid.* p. 67.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 468.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 66.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 176.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1281-1292, p. 14.

down on Hawarden, which it was easy for David, as being lord of the Upper Clwyd, to attack unexpectedly; they captured Roger de Clifford, who was Keeper of Hawarden and Mold, as the then lord, Roger of Mold, was a minor, and devastated the country up to the walls of Chester. Llewelyn remaining in the north, David rushed off to raise the south Welsh, and succeeded so well that he captured Llandovery and destroyed the new castle at Llanbadarn; the rising was general in Brecon and Radnor, and the King was obliged to call for reinforcements from Ireland and Scotland, and even from Gascony, to quell the revolt.

The castle of Builth, which had been four years in construction at a cost of £1600, under Howel ap Meyrick, was completed just before his death in 1281; the custody of it was committed in November to Roger le Strange,¹ no doubt because of his intimate acquaintance with that part of the country. He had up to that time been in charge of Dinas Bran, the chief castle in Bromfield, which with Yale was the nucleus of the possessions of the Welsh lords of Lower Powys. Griffith ap Madog, who died in 1269, had left several sons, but Edward I kept the lordships in his own hands and had made Roger le Strange keeper of Bromfield and Yale, doubtless as a measure of precaution. In 1282 Earl Warenne was granted Bromfield and Yale,² so Roger le Strange was no longer wanted there, and was transferred to Builth. Warenne built the Dinas Bran, the ruins of which still survive. The descendants of Griffith ap Madog were relegated to small estates, and one of their direct line was Owen Glendwr, whose connection with the le Stranges will be shown later.

On the outbreak of hostilities both Roger and his nephew John were ordered, on March 24, 1282, to place themselves and their forces under the command of Roger de Mortimer, and not to have intercourse with the Welsh rebels, or to let them have arms or provisions.³ On May 24 they were summoned to serve with the army at Rhuddlan;⁴ and Roger le Strange was again summoned to perform military service there in person,⁵ but it is not probable

¹ *Rot. Orig.*, 10 *Edw. I.*, i. 39b.

³ *Parl. Writs*, vol. i. 222, No. 1.

⁵ *Parl. Writs*, i. 247, No. 9.

² *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 240.

⁴ *Rot. Wall.* 10 *Edw. I.*, m. 4, dorso.

that he left the middle March for the north. The Bedfordshire Writs of that year mention that he was tenant by the courtesy of England of the third part of the barony of Beauchamp, but in pursuance of the summons performed his service in Ellesmere by the King's command in the *comitivâ* of Roger de Mortimer.¹ During the summer of 1282 he was holding Builth Castle with a small garrison, surrounded by a sea of revolt: for a long time he seems to have been isolated, keeping his garrison going by the revenues of the land belonging to it, which brought in £100 per annum to the Crown.² On October 26 Roger de Mortimer died, and Roger le Strange, who had been doing his work for some time, succeeded to his place. On October 30 le Strange was appointed to the custody of the King's castles of Oswestry, Whitchurch, and Montgomery, and the knights of those garrisons were ordered to be intendant to him; ³ he had already been directed, on October 14, to surrender the keepership of Builth Castle to John Giffard of Brimsfield, lord of Llandovery.⁴

On November 6, 1282, the royal army suffered a bad temporary check by the defeat of Tany on the Menai Straits, which obliged Edward to remain for a while on the defensive. Edward, however, recovered himself so well within a month or so that Llewelyn left Snowdon in despair of further resistance, and tried as a forlorn hope the effect of appearing among the numerous Welsh tenants of Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, and of the Mortimers, Bohuns, Giffards, and other mid-Welsh Marcher lords. The defence of the March devolved upon Roger le Strange. Roger at once took active measures for carrying out the preparations for the advance against the Welsh in central Wales; he ordered the cutting down of trees in the passes; ⁵ he had John Giffard with him, and young Edmund Mortimer was certainly acting under his orders, but there is some doubt as to who was in actual command at the battle near Builth. Mr. Morris, in his 'Welsh Wars,' commits himself to the statement that 'not a single authority represents l'Estrange as present in person.' In this particular instance Mr. Morris

¹ *Parl. Writs*, i. 247, No. 9.

² *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 244.

³ *Welsh Rolls*, June 28, 1283.

⁴ *Rot. Orig.*, 10 *Edw. I.*, i. p. 51b.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 240.

has certainly failed to examine his original authorities ; so far from not mentioning Roger as being present, several of them specifically record his presence, and one¹ even says that he personally cut off Llewelyn's head :

Quod cum audisset Rogerus le Estraunge, pro tanto opprobrio indignatus, et non modicum iratus, illico evaginato gladio quo accinctus erat, irruit in eum, et, ejusdem capite amputato, corpus truncum relinquit.

Trokelowe is perhaps not very convincing, as he makes the affair happen at Montgomery, but another chronicler says : ²

E puis vint Sire Leulin e descendi de Snoudone, e vint a Mount Gumeri e la vint Sir Roger le Estraunge e autre marchiz e gent de la pais e pristerent Sire Leulin, e le occirent, e sa teste fu en veye a la Tour de Loundres.

At least two other chroniclers mention Roger as taking a personal part in Llewelyn's capture and death, and the fact that it was Roger himself, as we shall see, who sent the despatch announcing the affair to King Edward, is in itself strongly presumptive of his having been in command on the day.

The subjoined letter from Roger to the King³ refers mainly to the earlier stages of Llewelyn's southern raid. The enemy has crossed the Berwyns—the long range of moorland shutting in the southern valley of the Dee between Corwen and Llangollen. Earl Warenne, holding Bromfield on the flank of the Berwyns, is not to allow them to get provisions. The lands of '*Sire Griffin*' were doubtless those of Gruffydd of Pool, and this shows that the Welsh had crossed the mountains into the upper Severn Valley. The Mortimers, and the bailiffs of Brecon and Builth, are warned, a fact which shows that Roger correctly guessed the direction Llewelyn would take, and enhances his share in the credit of the victory at Orewin bridge :

A son tre noble seigneur Edward par la grace deu Roy de Engleterre Seigneur de Yrlaund et Duc de Guyenne Roger le Estraunge si ly plest Saluz Honurs et reuerences cum a son cher Seigneur. Sachez sire ke jeo ai reuisite nos marches en nos parties de Leu en Leu partut, et ceo ke mes alast par le conseil de vos prudes

¹ *De Trokelowe et Anon. Chron.* (Rolls Series, 48), iii. 40.

² *Le Livre de Reis de Engleterre* (Wroxham continuation, Rolls Series, 42), p. 304.

³ *P.R.O. Ancient Correspondence*, xix. Nos. 8 and 9.

homes ai Jeo fet adrescer a meux ke Jeo sauez et frai de Jour en Jour sicum deus me assensera a meux ke puisse. Endroit de ceo sire ke vus me mandastes par nostre lettre ke Jeo cheuachas sus vos enemys. Sachez sire ke vos enemys en nos parties sont outre Berwen¹ et outre Merugge² le quelle mountagnes sont si morouses et debeteines ke nul Host ne pourroit saunesment passer sans mettre vostre gent en grand peril La quele chose vus mauez defendu, ne mie por ceo ke kaunt ke home pourra fere de damage a eus Jeo mettrei ma peine de fere le. Sachez sire ke le greu^a damage ke home le pourra fere de ca en auant ceo est de garder ben la marche ke viueres ne viandes ne passent a eus, la quele garde Jeo ai ordine a meux ke Jeo sauei, mes il en est mester si vus plect ke vus direz au Counte de Garenne ke il preigne garde ben la terre ke vus li auez done ke vitaille ne passe. Et maundez si vus plect meyme la manere a ma dame de Mortymer et a sire Emun son fiz et au Baillif de Buelt et de Brekenen meyme. La nuit ke ceste lettre fu fete si me vint nouele ke Lewelin esteit decenduz en la terre sire Griffin et por ceo Jeo ale Lendroit. Deu vus doint longe vie et bone.

I trust that it will not be without interest if I go with some detail into a description of the skirmish—except in the importance of its results it is hardly worthy of being called a battle—as I have had the advantage of personally examining the ground in company of a most competent local antiquary, the Rev. Edmondes Cwen, vicar of Llanelwedd, near Builth, to whom I am indebted for many notes embodied in this narrative.

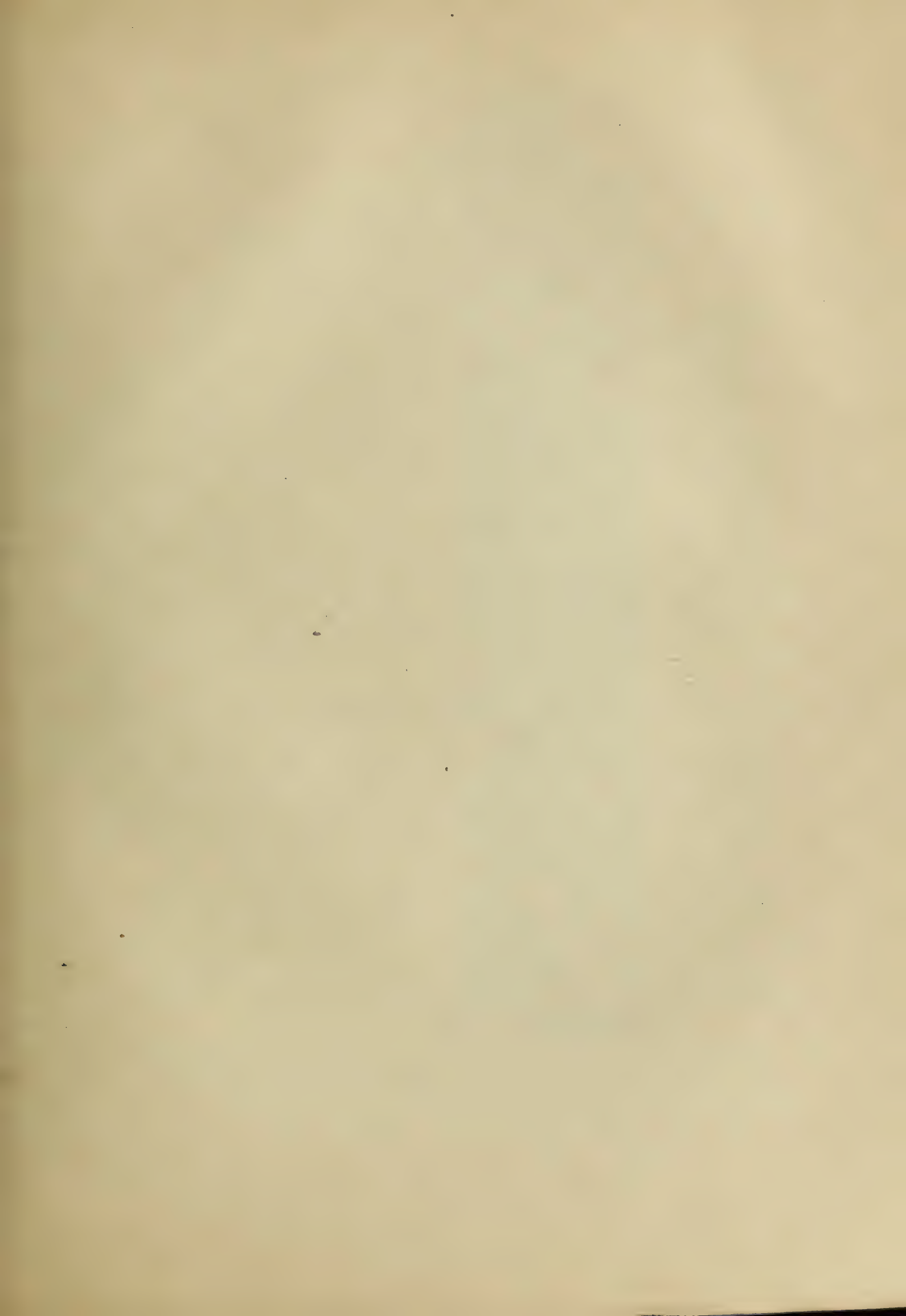
John Giffard, who was then holding Builth Castle for the King, was connected through the family of his wife, Maud Longespée, with Llewelyn, and had also fought together with him at Lewes against Edward, but had afterwards deserted the barons and joined the King's side. It is said that, after Llewelyn's success near Bangor, he was invited by his old comrade-in-arms to come to Builth, Giffard promising to desert the King and help him. Llewelyn, not suspecting treachery, came down with a body-guard of only eighteen men. He spent the night of December 10 at the little castle of Aberedw, on the Wye, a few miles below Builth, hoping to meet Giffard in the morning. Here Giffard and the two young Mortimers attempted to surprise him, but he escaped and took refuge in a cave on the hill above. Next morning he proceeded up the right bank of the Wye to Builth, but found the castle closed against him by Giffard's men; he

¹ Cader Berwyn, on the borders of Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire.

² ? unidentified.

destroyed Builth bridge, and hastened to join the main body of his forces, which was posted on the heights near Cilmery, overlooking the northern or left bank of the river Yrfon, which runs into the Wye from the westward just above Builth.¹ From these heights, at a spot known long before the battle as *Cefn-y-bedd* (the ridge of the grave), a *Cwm*, or dingle, runs down to the Yrfon, and immediately opposite the bottom of the dingle was Orewin bridge; no trace of which now remains, but the name, which means *above the foam*, indicates the site; the bridge, no doubt a wooden one, was built just above a little rapid at the foot of the dingle. The English held the right or southern bank of the Yrfon from Builth upwards, but were unable to cross the river as it was in flood, and Llewelyn had seized the bridge and detached some of his men on the south side to guard it, leaving most of his force on the steep northern slopes above the river. Having posted his forces, and deeming their position secured by the river in their front, the prince, who had been up nearly all the previous night, retired to rest in a barn near the head of the dingle. Meanwhile a Welshman had pointed out to the English a ford, about a mile higher up the Yrfon, by which they were able to cross over to the northern side, and, by skirting the heights a little way from the river, took the men who were guarding Orewin bridge in the rear; they gained possession of the bridge, and thus opened the way for the rest of the English army to cross over. Some of the heavy cavalry, with archers intermingled in their ranks, who had worked round higher up the slopes behind the main body of the Welsh, charged downhill, and threw them into confusion; caught unawares between two fires, and without orders from their prince, the Welsh resistance was overcome, and they were driven in disorder from the field. At that juncture Llewelyn, awakened by the noise, hurried up without waiting to put on his armour, and was run through the body and killed, before his identity was recognised, by one Stephen de Frankton. The name of this individual supplies additional proof of the connection of Roger le Strange with the fight, as Stephen was undoubtedly a

¹ *Ann. Monast., Dunstable*, iii. 293.



[illegible]

ROGER LE STRANGE to EDWARD I.,

Announcing death of Llewelyn.

retainer of Roger's, and was under obligations to him. Frankton is a small village close to the latter's manor of Ellesmere. The Patent Rolls of September 10, 1275, contain a ratification, at the instance of Roger le Strange, of a pardon granted to Stephen de Frankton by Henry III of his abjuration of the realm and of all trespasses.¹ Stephen appears again in 1287 as Centenar in command of a company of infantry from Ellesmere.²

The best account of the battle, from which the above is largely drawn, is given by a contemporary Yorkshire chronicler, Walter de Hemingburgh, to whom Mr. James Gairdner gives the high praise of saying that 'his accuracy of statement is only equalled by the elegance of his style.'³ The authorities are by no means agreed as to details, and not even as to who struck the fatal blow, but the balance of evidence appears to confirm the narrative as given above.

The head of Llewelyn was cut off and sent to Edward I at Rhuddlan, so that he might make sure that his enemy was really dead, and was accompanied by the following despatch, of which a photograph is given opposite, from Roger le Strange to announce his victory. It is, as Mr. Morris remarks,⁵ laconic to the point of being tantalising:

A son tre noble seign^r Edward par la grace Deu Roy de Engleterre, seign^r de Yrlaund, t Duc de Guyene, Rogle⁹ Estraunge si le plect saluz, honors, et reuerences :

Sachez sire ke vos bones gens les queus vus auez assigne de estre entendant a moy se combatirent ou Leweln le finz Griffin en le paes de Buelt le vendredy prochein apres la feste seint Nhoilas, issi ke Leweln le finz Griffin est mort et ses gent desconfit et tote la flour de ses gent morz, sicum le portr de ceste lettre vus dirra, et le creez de ce ke il vus dirra de par moi.

Surely the wording of the above despatch is sufficient to establish the fact that the English army at Orewin bridge was under the command of Roger le Strange.

The headless trunk was buried at Cwmhir Abbey, in the modern Radnorshire; the head itself was sent on to London by the King

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 104.

² Exchequer accounts, 118.

³ Gairdner's *Early Chroniclers of England*, p. 196.

⁴ *Ancient Correspondence*, P.R.O., xix. 8.

⁵ *Welsh Wars*, p. 184.

and, crowned with a silver circlet, was carried up Cheapside on the point of a lance, and was then placed on the Tower as a warning to all against future attempts at insurrection.¹

After the death of Llewelyn his brother David endeavoured to make a new centre of resistance at Bere Castle in Merionethshire, but the Welsh had no resources at their back, and David was not equal to his brother as a leader.² On May 2, 1283, Roger le Strange was summoned to perform military service in person against them, and he and the bailiffs of his lordship of Ellesmere were required to muster at Montgomery.³ He was present under the command of William de Valence at the siege of Bere Castle, which surrendered on April 25, when Roger was appointed constable thereof ;⁴ he was left with his own troop of 20 horse and 2000 foot to patrol Merionethshire throughout June, and he was able to reduce the whole district ; his nephew John was also employed on the same service.⁵ Prince David was finally captured on Snowdon at the end of June, and on the 30th of that month John and Roger were among the barons summoned to Shrewsbury to treat with the King as to what should be done with the captive ;⁶ he was condemned during the sitting of the Parliament at Shrewsbury, and was executed as a traitor on October 3, 1283. After July there was no longer any need to keep an army in the field ; the principality was formally incorporated with England by the Statute of Wales, enacted at Rhuddlan on March 19, 1284, and Edward devoted his attention to castle-building in order to hold the annexed lands.

It has been mentioned⁷ that the castle and manor of Chartley, in Staffordshire, which had belonged to Thomas de Ferrers before the disturbances in the reign of Henry III, had been granted by that King to Hamon le Strange (the Crusader). After the death of Hamon in Palestine in 1273 the castle was seized by Robert de Ferrers, but as soon as Edward I returned to England his brother Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, by the King's orders besieged and took

¹ Trokelowe, iii. 40 ; *Chron. W. de Hemingburgh*, ii. pp. 11-13.

² Pipe Roll, 12 Edw. I, under Salop.

⁴ *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 284.

⁶ *Fædera*, i. 630.

³ *Parl. Writs*, 1283.

⁵ *Parl. Writs*, 1283.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 144.

the castle ; some years later, viz. on December 20, 1282, a pardon was issued to the Earl of Lancaster, Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, Reginald de Grey, and others of their party, for any deaths caused in the siege of the castle of Chartley ; also a pardon for such of the rebels as the said Edmund by letters patent had received into the King's peace.¹

The manor of Olney, on the borders of Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, formed part of the inheritance of Hugh de Albin, Earl of Arundel, a fourth part of whose lands descended to his sister Nicola, the mother of Joan de Somery, wife of John le Strange (IV). Joan, as we have seen in the last chapter,² had three sisters, so a fourth part of the above fourth, *i.e.* one-sixteenth of the whole manor, came to John (V) in right of his mother. This was not divisible until her death, which must have taken place in 1282, as on December 15 of that year the Sheriff of Northampton was directed to commit to the four parceners—viz. Ralph de Cromwell and Margaret his wife, John le Strange, Walter de Sully and Mabel his wife, and Maud, late the wife of Henry de Erdington—the manor of Olney, so that they could till and sow the lands until Easter next.³ On September 12 of the next year (1283) the escheator was ordered to deliver to the parceners the said manor to hold for the same purposes until a month after Michaelmas.⁴ On December 1, 1283, the manor was finally divided among the four co-heirs, full particulars with names of tenants being given.⁵ Two years later they were summoned to show why they claimed view of frankpledge in Olney ; they answered that it formerly belonged to Hugh de Daubeney, and is held in pourparty by three co-parceners, of whom one, Richard fitz Alan, is under age and in custody of the King, so that they are meantime in possession of the franchises.⁶

The Feudal Aids granted to the King at different periods show in whose hands the different manors were then held. The Roll of Fees in Salop for 1284-5 gives the following information—viz.

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 53.

² *Supra*, p. 158.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 176.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 189.

⁵ *Inq. p.m.*, Edw. I, File 40 (11) ; *Rot. Orig. in cur. Scac.*, i. 43b, and 46a ; *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, pp. 196, 238, 293.

⁶ *Plac. de Quo Warr.*, Edw. I-III, p. 91b.

John le Strange held the manor of Ness and Kinton with its members, viz. Olreton, Hopton, and Wyvelcote, in chief by service of one knight's fee.¹ Alan de Glasseleye held Glazeley of John le Strange for half a knight's fee, and John held it of Richard fitz Alan, who held it of the King.² Roger le Strange held the manor of Little Ercall with its members, viz. Acton, Leyes, and Golstan, of John le Strange for half a knight's fee, and he of the King.³ Wrockwardine was held by John in chief at the annual rent of £8.⁴ Roger held the manor of Cheswardine of John, who held it of the King by service of half a knight's fee.⁵ Roger de Lodewyche held the vill of Abbeton of Geoffrey de Lodewyche, who held it of John le Strange, and he of the King for half a knight's fee.⁶ The Roll for Cambridgeshire for 1284-6 shows that John held two knights' fees in Middleton of Simon de Insula, but how the latter held was not mentioned.⁷ In Staffordshire the Roll for the same years mentions that Wolrighton was held of him, and that he held it of Nicholas, Lord Stafford, who held of the King.⁸

An article about Norwich thieves in the thirteenth century by Henry Harrod⁹ records a remarkable case which occurred at Hunstanton in the 14th of Edward I (1285-6). Christiana Gamot, and Nicholas, the son of Mariota Bagge, of Hunstanton, were taken to that place in custody, whence they escaped. Each of them took sanctuary in Hunstanton church, acknowledged themselves thieves, and abjured the realm before the coroner. Nicholas returned and broke into the house of John Norman, of Hunstanton, and carried away goods to the value of 26 marks; flying when the hue and cry was raised, he was retaken and beheaded. This penalty was usually reserved for cases of treason.

The Gaol Delivery Roll of the same year supplies particulars of an assault which took place at Hunstanton, in which the vicar and his brother, a chaplain, and a clerk seem to have been implicated. Richard the smith of Hunstanton impleaded Alexander le Eskermiscur, William Dunny the vicar, Thomas his brother, Geoffrey de Renham, chaplain, and Gocelin, a clerk of Hunstanton,

¹ *Feudal Aids*, iv. p. 215.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 221.

⁷ *Ibid.* i. p. 138.

² *Ibid.* p. 218.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 222.

⁸ *Ibid.* v. p. 2.

³ *Ibid.* p. 220.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 223.

⁹ *Norw. Arch.* vii. 372.

for beating, wounding, and maltreating him, and maiming his left hand ; William denied it, and also pleaded privilege of clergy, whereupon he was claimed by the Ordinary of the Bishop. The jury found that none of the others were guilty except Alexander le Eskermiscur ; he committed the assault, but the others were present and were also amerced, and Alexander went back to the vicarage after the row. Alexander had no goods or chattels, but William, the vicar, came afterwards and paid a fine of half a mark. The name of William Dunny as vicar of Hunstanton in 1286 is not given by Blomefield. Mr. Walter Rye, to whom I am indebted for the above information, discovered another instance of a criminous clerk at Hunstanton in the same year ;¹ William, the chaplain of Hunstanton, was charged with murdering an unknown chaplain at Barsham, and was found guilty. Mr. Rye says that the number of clergy at that period who are charged on these Crown Plea Rolls with different crimes would be incredible to anyone who has not searched such records.

The long delay in getting his share of the manor of Olney, and the expenses to which he was put in connection with the Welsh war, had again involved John le Strange in debt ; on October 10, 1283, the Close Rolls contain his acknowledgment for £100 to Robert de Stepelton, secured on his Shropshire lands ;² and, on October 18, 1286, he borrowed on the same security £20 of two merchants of Lucca.³ The King appears to have behaved generously to him ; on June 3, 1285, the treasurer of the Exchequer was ordered to acquit him of 200 marks, as it appeared to the King that John le Strange, John's grandfather, at the time when he was the late King's Justice of Chester, paid that sum by the said King's order to the men of Chester for a similar amount which they had lent to the King.⁴ Next year, on February 15, by a similar order he was acquitted of £14 due to the King for his relief, as the King had pardoned it to him.⁵ He further received permission to alienate to John de Ludlow a moiety of the manor

¹ Crown Plea Roll for Norf., 14 Edw. I, ^M
⁴ } 6. *Norf. Antiq. Miscell.*, ii. 194.
²

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 239.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 323. See *supra*, p. 117.

³ *Ibid.* p. 437.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 384.

of Campden, held of the King in chief ;¹ and he was also accorded quittance of the common summons in Buckingham on December 5, 1286.²

In 1286 Edward I went to France and reduced Gascony to obedience ; he stayed there three years, leaving his cousin Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, as regent in England. The Welsh took advantage of the King's absence to make an attempt to shake off the English yoke. Their leader now was Rhys ap Maredudd, lord of the vale of Towy, and an old ally of the English ; he had sided with them against Llewelyn in hopes of being placed on the Welsh throne in his stead, but was contemptuously treated by them when the war was over ; some grievances connected with the new position of affairs caused him to head a revolt, which assumed considerable proportions, in the early summer of 1287. On June 14 the regent summoned the barons to join him '*equis et armis*' at Gloucester ;³ John le Strange had letters of protection on the 24th for going to Wales upon the King's service, and on the next day Roger le Strange was despatched to Wales as commander of the expedition against Rhys ; writs of assistance were sent to the Sheriffs of Salop and Stafford, and Peter Corbet, Bogo de Knovill, Fulk fitz Warin, John le Strange, and his cousin Owen ap Griffith of Pool were required to obey his commands,⁴ and to provide him with 500 footmen.⁵ Roger raised the English of Shropshire and the Marches of Powys, Bromfield, and Radnor, and joined Reginald de Grey, who had brought the men of Chester from the north. Within a month 11,000 infantry were concentrated on the Towy, converged from four different points. Roger le Strange took part in the siege of Rhys's stronghold, Dryslwyn Castle, near Carmarthen ; he brought with him 1000 English from Shropshire, and 1940 Welsh from the Marches,⁶ one of his Shropshire centenars being Stephen de Frankton, commanding the Ellesmere contingent. The Pipe Roll shows that £150 was paid to Roger for raising infantry.⁷

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 391.

² *Rot. Wall.*, 15 Edw. I, m. 10, d.

³ *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, 1277-1326, p. 306.

⁴ 15 Edw. I, memb. 1.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 406.

⁶ *Parl. Writs*, vol. i.

⁷ *Morris's Welsh Wars*, p. 209.

Dryslwyn Castle surrendered about September 5 and most of the English forces were dismissed, but early in November Rhys broke out again and seized Newcastle-Emlyn. Orders were at once sent, on November 14, 1287, to Roger le Strange to suppress this new rebellion, and both he and his nephew John were enjoined to reside on their demesnes and lordships, and not to go away until the revolt was put down.¹ The danger must have been regarded as serious, as only the day before John le Strange had been summoned by the King to join him in Gascony, letters of protection having been issued to him on November 13, as he was going there on the King's service for one year.² The suppression of the revolt gave continuous and considerable trouble for several years; the Sheriff of Salop was ordered, on July 17, 1287, to provide 200 diggers and 200 carpenters to come with their tools to Hereford in the company of Roger le Strange, as the King needed their services in the expedition to Wales.³ Mandates were issued on November 14, 1287, to Roger and John le Strange, and to several other knights on the Marches, directing them to attack and pursue Rhys ap Maredudd by night and by day.⁴ The King was dissatisfied with the progress made, and, early in the following year, he sent William de Henley, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, to Wales to survey the state of affairs in those parts, and the le Stranges and others were directed to give credence to his requirements.⁵ On December 6 John le Strange was ordered to obey the commands of Peter Corbet, custos of Llanbadarn.⁶ The rebellion was finally put down by Robert de Tiptoft, but Rhys evaded capture and remained at large till 1291, when he was taken prisoner, sent to York for sentence, and hanged there. After the suppression of the revolt power was given to Roger le Strange to receive into the King's peace all Welshmen of the land of Powys wishing to come in.⁷

When peace had been re-established in Wales, John le Strange, in obedience to his previous orders, must have joined the King

¹ *Parl. Writs*, p. 1287; Rymer, i. 680.

² *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 312.

³ *Ibid.* p. 320.

⁴ *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 355.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 279.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 315.

⁷ *Parl. Writs*, i. 254, No. 2.

in France, as the Patent Rolls for May 5, 1289, contain letters of protection for him staying beyond seas with the King until Michaelmas.¹ Edward returned to England in August, and there was peace for a few years.

In the 20th of Edward I (1291-2) the Crown claimed from John le Strange the manors of Kinton and Ness; John answered that his ancestor John le Strange received them by grant from Henry II, and he produced the charter from that King.² He was then summoned to show how he claimed free warren and other liberties in his manors of Ness, Kinton, and Middle; he replied that in Middle he only claimed free warren, but in the other manors he also claimed all other liberties, such as waifs, infangentheof, &c., from immemorial user, which was allowed.³

An undated deed in the British Museum⁴ belonging to this period bears a good seal of the le Strange arms. It is a grant from John son of John le Strange to brother Stephen, chaplain *de insula de Wilfreton*, of two meadows in frankalmoign for the soul of Walter de Mucegros, whose lands in Herefordshire had been granted after the battle of Evesham to John le Strange (III).⁵ The seal of green wax is appendant to this charter, the legend, +S. JOHANNIS LE ESTRANGE, is in good preservation; the armorial bearings are somewhat indistinct, but show two lions passant—not guardant, as incorrectly described in the 'British Museum Catalogue of Seals,' ii. 770.

The Gascon Rolls of June 14, 1294, show that John le Strange was summoned among other barons to join the King at Portsmouth on September 1 *equis et armis*, to fight against the King of France;⁶ but a writ, also tested at Westminster on June 14, shows that le Strange was specially excepted from this general summons.⁷ The reason is obvious; he was wanted to help in putting down the third and last rising in Wales, which had been provoked by the compulsory enlistment of Welsh infantry for service oversea.⁸ At the beginning of the insurrection the Welsh obtained consider-

¹ C.P.R., 1272-1281, p. 315.

³ *Ibid.* p. 683a.

⁵ *Supra*, p. 137.

⁷ *Parl. Writs*, i. 260, No. 2.

² *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Record Series), p. 679a.

⁴ Add. Chart. 8068.

⁶ Bémont, *Rôles Gascons*, iii. No. 3449.

⁸ Morris, *Welsh Wars*, p. 242.

able successes. Madog, an illegitimate son of Llewelyn, who claimed to succeed him as prince, led the revolt in Gwynedd, and there were dangerous risings in other places. A Welsh chronicle, called *Cambria triumphans*, quoted by Eyton,¹ mentions a defeat of John le Strange at Knockin. Roger le Strange, who had also been ordered to join the King's army at Portsmouth to go to Gascony,² was despatched to uphold the King's interests in Central Wales, where the castles of Builth and Bere were blockaded by the insurgents. On September 28, 1294, a Writ of Aid was sent to the King's bailiff of Maelor Saesneg in favour of Roger, 'whom the King is sending for the expedition of certain special affairs,' and the bailiff was ordered to do what Roger should tell him on the King's behalf;³ on the same day similar writs were issued to the Sheriff of Salop, and to the King's bailiffs of Powys and the parts adjacent.⁴ Roger was also appointed, during pleasure, to the custody of Welshpool (la Pole) Castle, late of Owen de la Pole, his nephew, tenant-in-chief a minor in the King's hands.⁵ In October Roger was ordered to join the forces under Richard, Earl of Arundel, for the relief of the castle of Bere, which was in imminent danger, '*cujus salvationem cupimus toto corde.*'⁶ Mr. Morris remarks that 'the subsequent silence of documents and chroniclers alike argues that the relief was effected.'⁷ Meanwhile Edward himself had hurried to North Wales, the seat of greatest danger. The Welsh succeeded in capturing his commissariat train early in January 1295, and for a short time the King was actually besieged by them in Conway Castle, but on the arrival of relief towards the end of the month he obtained a decisive victory over them near the castle which broke the back of the insurrection; Prince Madog was captured, and died a prisoner in the Tower of London.

To return to John le Strange, it appears from an entry in the Close Rolls of 1295 that, some time previously, he had enfeoffed John de Ludlow and his wife Isabel jointly in a moiety of his manor of Campden; on the death of John de Ludlow this manor

¹ x. 333.

² Bémont, *Rôles Gascons*, p. 241, No. 3417; *Parl. Writs*, Sept. 1, 22 Edw. I.

³ *C. Cl. R.*, 1288-1296, p. 395.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 88.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Parl. Writs*, i. 264.

⁷ *Welsh Wars*, p. 52.

was taken into the King's hands, but on August 14 the escheator was ordered to restore her moiety to Isabel, as the King had taken her homage.¹ It has been mentioned above² that the manor of Betton, near Cheswardine, had been acquired by Hamon, second son of Roland le Strange, from the monks of Shrewsbury; Hamon's heir was his elder brother John (I), so Betton became one of the manors held by the main line of Ness and Knockin. Under the heading of 'History of Shrewsbury Liberties,' an account of the descent of this manor is given by Mr. John B. Blakeway in the 'Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society,'³ which is well worth giving in full:

BETTON STRANGE.

In the 23rd Edw. I (1295-6) it had been long enough possessed by this family to have acquired the distinctive appellation it still retains of Betton Strange. For thus it is written in the Book of Fees in the Exchequer on the Treasurer's side (Ashmole MSS., vol. 859), 'Bogo de Knovill et Eleanora uxor ejus tenent Betton Extranei de Johanne Extraneo et idem Johannes tenet de Rege in Capite.' This Eleanor (the daughter and co-heir of William de Blancminster, or Whitchurch) was relict of Robert le Strange, Lord in her right of Blackmere, who died in 1276. She is called in the pedigrees *relict* of Bogo de Knovill, but it is manifest that he was her second husband. Betton Strange was then part of her dower, and held by her and her husband of the inheritance of John, her eldest son by her first husband. In the 17th Edward III the said John was in possession of it, having then a grant of free warren in his lands of Whitchurch, Corfham, Wrockwardyn, Sutton Bacton, Longnolre, and Cheswarthyn. Among the Longnor deeds is one of 10 Edward III, in which John de Tronwell, chaplain, grants to Sir Hamond le Strange, knight, and Margaret his wife, in tail, his manor of Betton Strange, which he had of y^e feoffment of y^e said Sir Hamond, to be held of y^e chief lords of y^e fee. The next entry I find in the records concerning this manor is from the Fines of 47 Edward III in the Tower, m. 14 (Dodsworth MSS. vol. 32): 'Rex commisit Johanni, filio Johannis Lestrangle junioris, custodiam maneriorum de Cheswurdyn et Strange Betton cum pertinentiis que fuerunt Margarete que fuit uxor Hamonis Lestrangle defuncte, et que per mortem ipsius Margarete, et rationis minoris etatis predicti Johannis filii Johannis filii Johannis consanguinei et heredis predicti Hamonis in manu nostro existunt; habendum et tenendum ad licitam etatem predicti Johannis filii Johannis 10 December.' From this extract it appears that Betton Strange had been the property of Sir Hamo le Strange of Cheswardine, a younger son of Fulke le Strange of Blackmere, who was the brother and heir of John mentioned above as being seized of the rever-

¹ C. Cl. R., 1288-1296, iii. 422.

² *Supra*, p. 30.

³ Second series, i. 381-3.

sion of it in 1295 ; that, on the death of the said Sir Hamo, it devolved to Margaret his widow for her life, that on her death it descended to John le Strange of Blackmere, her husband's great-nephew and heir, who being then a minor, it was seized into the King's hands, and that his majesty now granted it to him for his maintenance during his minority. Before all this, however, it had belonged to Fulke, another younger son of Fulke le Strange of Blackmere, who is expressly styled of Betton. He left only daughters, in consequence of which this manor passed to his brother, Sir Hamo, to whom John de Tromwell granted it in 11 Edward III.

John le Strange, the minor, deceasing two years after the above Fine, viz. in 1375, without attaining full age, and leaving a daughter (who also died an infant), the manor reverted to the three daughters of Fulke le Strange of Betton : Johanna, wife of John Carles ; Eleanor, wife of Edward de Acton ; and Margaret le Strange, a nun of Lingbrooke, who in the same year, 1375 (49 Edward III), released her right in the manors of Longenorle and Betton to her sisters and their husbands, and, accordingly, on Sunday before the feast of St. Catherine in the following year, 50 Edward III, we find John Carles and Johan his wife, the eldest of those daughters, granting certain messuages and half a virgate of land in the town and fields of Betton Lestrange, which Gilbert son of Annote formerly held, to John son of Thomas Gilbertes of the same (apparently a descendant of the former) and Alice his wife.

[e cartis Rev. Jos. Corbett de Logn. archidiaconi de Salop.]

The above particulars are also set forth in an order entered in the Close Rolls of May 15, 1376, directing the escheator for Salop to remove the King's hand, and not to meddle further with the manor of Betton, as the heirs were of full age.¹

King Edward, having successfully quelled the insurrection in Wales, was prevented, by the necessity of personally opposing Sir William Wallace in Scotland, from prosecuting his interrupted expedition to Gascony ; but he despatched an army thither in 1296, under his brother Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, who captured Bordeaux on March 28, but died shortly afterwards. John le Strange, no longer wanted in Wales, was among those sent there : an order in the Close Rolls, dated September 28, 1296, to the King's taker of corn in Salop, Norfolk, and Cambridge, directs him not to intermeddle in any way with taking the corn of John le Strange, who is staying in Gascony in the King's service, wherefore the King wishes to provide for his indemnity, as he is bound to do.² Apparently he returned to England in 1296 or 1297, as by a writ of the latter year he is returned from the county

¹ *C. Cl. R., Edw. III, xiv. 314.*

² *Ibid., Edw. I, iv. 8.*

of Salop among the barons holding land or rents to the amount of £20 yearly value or upwards, and, as such, summoned to perform military service in person, with horses and arms, in parts beyond sea ; to muster at London on July 7.¹ There is no evidence that he went overseas again, and we shall see that in the following year he was serving in the Scotch war.

The Close Rolls, under date April 15, 1297, give a glimpse of matters occurring at Hunstanton : an order was issued to restore to Brother James, called ' Copyn,' of the Order of the Hospital, Envoy of the King of Denmark, all money arrested by Nicholas de Holm, and Robert de la Roche, keepers of the port of Holm and Hunstanton, in the hands of the said James in a *cog*, lately arrived in the said port 'per maris intemperiem'; the said keepers were ordered to restore to Brother James and certain merchants of Flanders and Almain, all goods and wares lately arrested by them in the aforesaid *cog*, and to restore to them the *cog*.²

The Chartulary of the abbey of Haughmond shows that John le Strange was at that place on December 13, 1297 ; on that day he inspected the muniments of the abbey concerning Knockin chapel, and confirmed to abbot Gilbert and his convent the grant thereof which had been made by his ancestor Ralph about 1190-95. Ralph's deed is enrolled in the Chartulary ; it grants the perpetual advowson [*jus patronatus capelle de Knokin*], and is witnessed by William fitz Alan, William le Strange, and Jonas the chaplain.³ On the same day of the following year, viz. December 13, 1298, John le Strange expedited from Knockin a more general confirmation to the abbey, which I copy *in extenso* from Eyton,⁴ as it shows in detail the large elemosynary grants which had been made to that foundation by various members of the le Strange family during the preceding century :

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes Extraneus quintus, cartas et instrumenta quæ habent viri religiosi Abbas et Conventus de Haghmon super donacionibus et possessionibus quas possident de antecessoribus meis inspexi . . . que propriis dux exprimenda vocabulis : advocationem ecclesie de Hunstan-

¹ *Parl. Writs*, i. 291, No. 19.

² *C. Cl. R., Edw. I*, iv. 25.

³ *Coll. Top. et Geneal.*, i. 369.

⁴ x. 373 ; fragment of Chartulary of Haughmond, B.M., Harl. 446 (Aug.).

eston cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, advocacionem ecclesie de Cheswardin cum pertinentiis suis, advocacionem ecclesie de Knokyn cum pertinentiis suis, molendinum de Osberston cum pertinentiis suis, molendinum de brueria, stagnum et vivarium supra proximum, cum agistiamente aque ex utraque parte et cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, Caldecotam cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, totam terram Radulphi Hert quam habuit in Teddesmere, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, villam de Vinelcote cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, molendinum de Ruton cum pertinentiis suis, dimidiam virgatam terre in Weblescote cum pertinentiis suis, duas virgatus terre in Baldreton cum p. s., tres acras terre in Bilemers cum p. s., totam villam de Naginton cum p. s., unam virgatam terre et dimidiam in Bireton cum p. s., molendinum et dimidiam cum dimidia virgata terre in Alvitheleg cum p. s., molendinum de Stretton super Dunnesmore cum p. s., totam terram quam habent in Cheswardin cum p. s., quandam partem prati quam habent in Muddleswode cum omnibus p. s. Quas quidem donaciones et concessiones, ratas et firmas in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosynam, habendas ipsis omnes et singulas, pro me et heredibus meis quibuscunque, iisdem canonicis et successoribus suis confirmo et presentis scripti testimonio sigillo meo signato corroboro et warrantizabo in perpetuum. Datum apud Le Knokyn die sabbati in festo sancte Lucie Virginis, anno gracie millesimo cc^{mo} nonagesimo octavo, et anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Henrici xxvij^o.¹

The above deed, detailing merely the possessions of a single abbey in a single county, derived from a single family, gives some idea of the enormous amount of landed property held by the dead hand of religious houses, which had led to the passing of the Statute of Mortmain a few years previously.

The King, having concluded a two years' truce with France in 1298, marched into Scotland and defeated the Scots at Falkirk on July 22: among others, 'Johan Lestraunge' was summoned to join Edward at Carlisle, '*as chevas et armes a Carloil pour aler avant en la busoigne d'Escoce.*'² On December 12 he had quittance of the common summons of the eyre for common pleas in the county of Cambridge.³ In the following year he was again summoned as a baron to perform military service against the Scots; the muster was first appointed for June 6, 1299, at Carlisle; it was adjourned to August 2, but on July 16 the barons were discharged from their attendance at Carlisle, and ordered to be ready to proceed on the King's service at any time on receiving forty days' notice; this notice was given in the winter, for John le Strange received orders to join the muster at York on November 12.⁴

¹ Harl. MSS. 449; Quatern., xi. fo. 6.

³ C. Cl. R., iv. 293.

² Rot. Claus., 26 Edw. I, m. 6, d.

⁴ Parl. Writs for 1299, i. 134, No. 22.

On December 30, 1299, he received orders to be at Carlisle with the other barons at midsummer ensuing to set out thence against the Scots.¹

A roll of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex and Hereford, Constable of England, contains the proffers of service made at the muster at Carlisle on the Eve of St. John the Baptist ; from the following entry therein it looks as if John le Strange, in addition to his own military service, performed that of another knight : ' Johannes de Mules recognovit et offert servicium duorum feodorum militis factum per Johannem le Estraunge militem, Rogerum de Ryvers, et Philippum Trenchefil.' ²

By a Fine of October 6, 1299, the manor of Mudle [Middle, Salop] was entailed on John le Strange of Knockin and Matilda his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the right heirs of John le Strange.³ The inquest taken on his death shows that he held Middle under Edmund, Earl of Arundel.⁴

Writs were issued from Berwick-upon-Tweed on December 29, 1299, for Parliament to meet at London on February 27 following, and among those summoned we find ' Johanni Extraneo.' ⁵ It is this summons which the lawyers of later times have held as having created the barony by writ of STRANGE OF KNOCKIN, in virtue of which John le Strange (V) was described in later phrase as the first Lord Strange of Knockin. He was returned from the county of Gloucester as holding lands, &c., to the yearly value of £40 and upwards, and, as such, was summoned under general writ to perform military service in person against the Scots, to muster at Carlisle on June 24, 1300.⁶ The royal army entered Scotland early in July, ravaged Galloway, and returned to England in November. That John le Strange was present during this campaign is shown by the mention of him in the contemporary poem on the siege of Caerlaverock, written probably by one of the heralds who accompanied the King ; it gives in metrical form a list in Norman-French of the armorial bearings of the nobles and knights who were present at the siege, and is one of the earliest rolls of arms extant. It was printed

¹ *Fœdera*, i. 916.

³ Eyton, x. 67.

⁵ Close Roll, 28 Edw. I.

² Doc. illust. *Hist of Scotland*, i. 226.

⁴ *Ibid.* ; Inq., 3 Edw. II, No. 46.

⁶ *Parl. Writs*, i. 849.

with notes and a translation by Sir Harris Nicolas in 1828, and was re-edited by Thomas Wright in 1864 from the MS. in the British Museum ; in this latter edition the coats of arms are emblazoned in their proper colours. The mention of le Strange is as follows :

Johans le Estrange le ot livrée
Rouge o deuz blans lyons passants.

The castle of Caerlaverock is situated near the southern shore of the Solway Firth, near the mouth of the river Nith ; it was thus one of the first fortified places encountered by Edward after he had crossed the border, and was besieged and captured by him on July 10 or 11, 1300.

It was while he was on this expedition that the King received the letter of Pope Boniface VIII claiming for the Holy See feudal supremacy over Scotland, and ordering Edward to withdraw his troops, release his prisoners, and desist from the war with that country.¹ The King replied that he must consult his counsellors on a matter concerning the rights of his Crown, and a Parliament was accordingly summoned on September 26, to meet at Lincoln on January 20, 1301 ;² the name of John le Strange appears in the list of barons to whom writs for this purpose were sent. Parliament met accordingly, and the reply of England to the papal pretensions was given in the well-known letter to the Pope, dated at Lincoln on February 12, 1301, and sealed by seven earls and ninety-six barons, or magnates, to whose territorial designations the title *dominus* is attached. In no ambiguous terms the supremacy of the Crown of England over the realm of Scotland from the very foundation of the kingdom of England was asserted, and the Holy Father was roundly informed, on behalf of all those whose names were attached, as well as for the whole community of England, that the King would not be permitted to answer before him in any way touching the rights of the kingdom of Scotland, or other temporalities of his Crown. Among these names appear the following :

Rogerus le Estraunge, dominus de Ellesmere.
Johannes le Estraunge, dominus de Cnokyn.
Fulco le Estraunge, dominus de Corfham.

¹ Orig. in P.R.O. Museum.

² *Parl. Writs*, i. 90.

It is worthy of note that, whereas several other families—viz. Hastings, de Grey, Mortimer, and Segrave—produced two members apiece who sealed this letter, no house except that of le Strange furnished three holders of baronies whose names appear therein. Photographic copies of the seals of these three barons will be found below in Chapter XI on the heraldry of the family.¹

The Close Rolls of February 13, 1301, contain an acknowledgment by John le Strange that he owes to Aynerus de Podio 60 marks, to be levied in default on his lands and chattels in Norfolk.² The Sheriff of Shropshire was directed on May 21, 1301, to ascertain by inquisition whether it would be to the King's prejudice if leave were given to Roger, son of John, to grant in fee simple to John le Strange the serjeanty of the forestership of the forest in the county of Salop, and the manors of Buildwas, Brimfield, and Isenbrigg, held in chief.³ The jury reported favourably, and licence to make the grant was issued on June 2.⁴

John le Strange was summoned with other barons to be at Berwick on June 24 to perform military service against the Scots; his son John, then a youth of nineteen, was among those summoned from the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to the same muster;⁵ the King invaded Scotland in July, but met with little opposition; he wintered there and made a truce with the Scots until November 30, 1302. An order had been sent from Lincoln on February 14, 1301, to the bailiffs and men of Thornham and Holme, to be with the King at Berwick-upon-Tweed at midsummer with one ship well found with men and other necessities, ready to set out at the King's wages against the Scots. The list of ships requisitioned from different places in the neighbourhood measures, to a certain extent, the relative importance of the several ports:⁶

Blakeney was ordered to furnish 2 ships.

Heacham and Flitcham ,, 1 ,,

Lynn ,, 3 ,,

Boston ,, 1 ,,

¹ *Infra*, Plate X.

³ Chanc. Inq. A.Q.D., File 34 (7).

⁵ *Parl. Writs*, i. 849.

² *C. Cl. R., Edw. I*, iv. 479.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 579.

⁶ *C. Cl. R., Edw. I*, iv. 482.

The entries of sums paid to the Crown in respect of Feudal Aids afford evidence as to the tenure of lands ; the following relate to John le Strange in the year 1302 :

In Cambridgeshire for two knights' fees in the vill of Middleton, £4.¹

In Norfolk the manor of Tottington was held for the term of her life by John de Thorp and Alicia his wife, of Constantine de Mortimer, for three parts and one-fifth, of John le Strange, who held it of Robert de Montalt, and Robert of the Earl of Arundel, the tenant *in capite*. John held further in Tottington the twentieth part of a knight's fee of Robert de Montalt, who held as above.²

In the parish of Mendham, which was formerly partly in Norfolk, though now wholly in Suffolk, John le Strange and Thomas de la Lathe held half a knight's fee of the heirs of Roger de Huntingfield.³ In the Hundred of Smithdon le Strange is entered as holding two knights' fees in Hunstanton of Robert de Montalt, one of the heirs of the Earl of Arundel, who himself held of the King ; it is expressly stated that le Strange and his tenants held these two fees in demesne in his own manor of Hunstanton ; he further held a quarter and a half of a fee of the said heir, as of the barony of Mileham.⁴ In Wesenham he appears to have held a moiety of a quarter of a knight's fee of Mileham of the same earl.⁵ In Sniterton half a knight's fee, a twentieth, and another twentieth part, were held under him by different tenants, he holding under the King.⁶ A knight's fee in Ringstead and Holme, formerly held by John le Strange of Robert de Montalt as heir of the Earl of Arundel, had been alienated by subinfeudation to several tenants ; and a fourth of a fee in South Pickenham, held by le Strange, or John de Harsik, of Edmund fitz Alan, had been alienated in the same way.⁷ The above entries show that John (V) in 1302 held, by himself or his sub-tenants, slightly more than the five knights' fees in Norfolk which had been held under William de Albini (II), Earl of Arundel, by his great-great-grandfather, John

¹ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, i. 149.

³ *Ibid.* p. 395.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 424.

⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 409-410, 438.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 438.

² *Ibid.* iii. 392.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 417. j

(I).¹ He is entered in the Fee Rolls for Suffolk for 1302-3 as holding a quarter of a knight's fee at Downham of the Earl of Oxford.²

Eyton states³ that between the years 1299 and 1309 John le Strange sold the manor of Ruyton, with all its homages and fees, to his suzerain, Edmund Earl of Arundel, and with it passed the distant manor of Glazeley, which was an appurtenance of Ruyton.

In 1302 proposals were made for peace with France, but Philip refused to treat unless the Scots were included, and he also required that King Edward should pass over in person to negotiate; Parliament was ordered to meet in London at Michaelmas, and among those summoned was John le Strange.⁴ It met on October 14, and refused to allow the King to go to France, treating the demand as an insult. Early in 1303 the Scots again rose in arms, and gained several successes; Edward assembled a large army, and we find John le Strange among the barons ordered to muster at Berwick on May 26.⁵ That he obeyed the summons is shown by a letter, dated June 14, 1303, from Phelipot de Wyndesor, *vadlet* of Sir John le Strange, attesting the receipt, for Sir John at Berwick, of 30 quarters of wheat, 4 hogsheads of wine, &c., from the King's stores there.⁶ Edward had just concluded a peace with France, by which he recovered possession of Guienne, and arranged a marriage between the Prince of Wales and Philip's daughter Isabella; the Scots, deserted both by the Pope and Philip, were abandoned to the vengeance of Edward, who overran their country, and took up his winter quarters in the great abbey of Dunfermline. A list of those with him there has the following entry:

Ces sont les noums de celx qui demorreront en le servise le Roi a Dunfermelyn et aillors en Escoce; Monsieur Johan Lestraunge.⁷

During John's absence in Scotland there was some trouble at his home in Wales; the Patent Rolls contain a commission of *Oyer and Terminer*, dated November 23, 1303, touching the persons

¹ *Supra*, p. 23.

⁴ *Parl. Writs*, i. 115, No. 10.

⁶ *C. Doc. Scot.* ii. 352, No. 1373.

² *Feudal Aids*, v. 32.

⁵ *Ibid.* i. 367, No. 1.

⁷ *Doc. Hist. Scot.*, Palgrave, i. 263.

³ x. 114.

who killed Yevan ap Meiler, several Welshmen, and a man of John le Strange, by le Knokyn in the March of Wales, within the liberty of the said John le Strange of Knockin.¹

In the following year, 1304, the only place in Scotland which still bade defiance to Edward was the castle of Stirling, which withstood a siege of three months before it surrendered. A roll of the magnates and others who served the King at this siege contains the name of 'Monsieur Johan Lestrangle i estate.'²

An inquisition of 1318 supplies the name of a daughter of John le Strange, unknown even to Eyton. A writ of certiorari to the Bishop of St. Asaph directs him to inquire on what day and at what place Griffith, son and heir of Madog ap Griffith of Glyndyvrwy, married Elizabeth, daughter of John le Strange. It is endorsed with a return that the marriage took place at his manor of Rhuthallt in Glyndyvrwy, on the quinzaine of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (July 8), 1304. The marriage is also recorded in the Red Book of St. Asaph, where Madog is described as of Glyndowedwy.³ This second occasion when a daughter of a John le Strange married a Welsh magnate is particularly interesting in that, as has been shown by Professor Tout in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,'⁴ it is pretty clear that Elizabeth le Strange was the grandmother of the Welsh hero, Owen Glendower. Professor Tout has supplied me with information on this point, worked out more clearly than in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' in which he had confused the generations.

Elizabeth's husband, Gruffydd ap Madog, was the grandson of Gruffydd Vychan, the grandson of Gruffydd of Maelor, or Bromfield (*d.* 1269), the representative of the princes of Lower Powys. I have already mentioned⁵ that Roger le Strange had acted as custos of Bromfield before that office was granted to Earl Warrenne. Already in 1278 complaint had been made that the le Stranges were unjustly occupying some of his former lands. After the heirs had been ousted in 1282 in favour of Earl Warrenne, Gruffydd Vychan,

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1301-1307, p. 270.

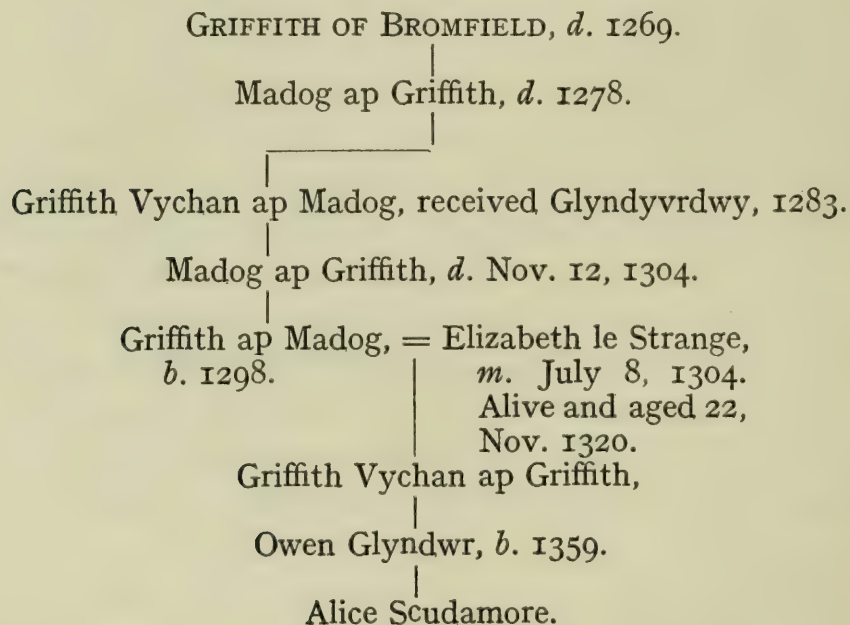
² *Doc. Hist. Scot.*, Palgrave, i. 268.

³ *C.I.P.M.*, *Edw. II*, vi. 80, No. 128, *cf.* No. 256; *Coll. Top. et Gen.*, i. 274.

⁴ xvi. 414, article on 'Ednyved'; xxi. 427, article on 'Owen Glendower.'

⁵ *Supra*, p. 192.

Madog's father, had received Glyndyvrwy to hold of the King at the request of Earl Warrene ; ¹ this was on February 12, 1283. Gruffydd Vychan's son Madog died on November 12, 1304, and his son, the Griffith who married Elizabeth le Strange, was born in 1298, so that he was only six years old at the time of his marriage. Clearly, le Strange took advantage of his position to secure more Welsh lands for his family. A petition of Maud, widow of John le Strange (V), made in the 8th of Edward II, when she was wife of Thomas Hastang, ² shows that they bought the marriage from Madog, at a cost of £50, paid in advance. After Madog died, le Strange continued to act as keeper of his son-in-law's lands until his own death. The husband of Elizabeth was certainly grandfather of Owen Glendower, and no other marriage of his is on record. That Glyndyvrwy was entailed on their heirs is borne out by a settlement thereof ³ made to a Griffith of Glyndyvrwy, great-grandfather of Owen Glyndwr's daughter Alice, and to a certain Elizabeth his wife, and to their heirs. It was thus, through the le Strange marriage, that Glyndwr's estates were continued to his successors. Professor Tout gives me the following as a provisional genealogy, showing that Elizabeth le Strange was grandmother of Owen Glendower.



¹ *Cal. Welsh Rolls*, p. 266.

² *Rot. Parl.* i. 306.

³ *Rot. Parl.* iv. 440.

The 'Parliamentary Writs' show that John le Strange was summoned to the Parliament at Westminster for February 16, prorogued to February 28, 1305. On April 5, 1306, he was among those summoned to treat with the King at Westminster concerning an aid on the knighting of Edward, Prince of Wales.¹ He was again summoned next year to the Parliament at Westminster for May 30, and also to perform military service in person against the Scots, or to appear at the Exchequer to compound for such service; the muster was to be at Carlisle on July 8. The reason for this was that Robert Bruce had left the English Court and raised the standard of revolt in Scotland. He was crowned King as Robert I, at Scone, on March 25, 1306, but was soon obliged to fly to the west of Scotland. A memorandum in the General Register Office at Edinburgh, relating to expeditions in search of Robert Bruce, details the wages of divers knights and soldiers in the valley of the Nith, pursuing the said Robert and his accomplices, the King's enemies, between March 5 and April 23; among the knights are mentioned John le Strange and Edmond Foliot.²

Le Strange was summoned to the last Parliament of Edward I, held at Carlisle on January 20, 1307, and his name is entered on the Roll accordingly.³ The King assembled a large army at Carlisle in the early summer of 1307, and prepared, for the third time in his reign, to undertake the conquest of Scotland; he had scarcely commenced his march toward the border when he sickened and died, after only a few days' illness, on July 7.

A new Parliament, to which le Strange was summoned, was ordered to meet at Northampton on October 13;⁴ by two writs, tested at Dover on January 18 and 19, 1308, he was summoned to attend the ceremony of the King's coronation on February 25, and a Parliament at Westminster on March 3; a further writ of the 10th of that month required his attendance at another Parliament on April 28.⁵ It was on the assembling of this body

¹ *Parl. Writs*, i. 136, No. 1, and i. 139, No. 6.

² *C. Doc. Scot.*, ii. 511, No. 1923.

³ *C. Doc. Scot.*, ii. 511, No. 1923.

⁴ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1470; Close Rolls, 1 Edw. II, memb. 12, dorso.

⁵ *Ibid.*

that complaints were made of the conduct of the King's favourite, Piers Gaveston, and he was banished for a time, but was made Governor of Ireland. Some show must have been made of an intended expedition against Scotland, as we find le Strange summoned with other barons to muster at Carlisle on August 22, 1308, for that purpose.¹ He had a further summons to a Parliament at Westminster on October 20; John, his son, had letters of protection while in the King's service at the same time.²

The Patent Rolls of April 1, 1308, contain a licence for John le Strange to '*Kernellare mansum suum de Medle.*'³ Some small remains of this crenellated dwelling-house still exist. Middle stands about eight miles north of Shrewsbury, near the road leading to Ellesmere, on level ground, with no natural advantages for defence. The earthworks perhaps originally formed a mote castle, and were subsequently altered into a moated homestead. In their present state one may trace a low rectangular platform with a sharp scarp faced with masonry, and surrounded by a plateau, in its turn defended by a moat full of water, bridged on the eastern side. Near the centre stands a small octagonal tower of three stories. A narrow arched doorway on the ground-floor gave access to a ruined newel staircase with windows on the second and third floors; above the second floor the building diminished to a crenellated turret. A projecting stone on the external wall, just above the bold string-course, bears carved on it a small shield with the two lions passant of the le Stranges, still remaining very distinct when I visited the place in July, 1906. This stone is unfortunately not in its original position. A paper in the 'Transactions of the Shropshire Architectural and Natural Historical Society'⁴ gives a history of Myddle, by the Rev. G. H. Egerton, rector of the parish; he cites a 'History of Myddle,' written by the antiquary Richard Gough in 1700, but not printed till 1834, which says:

After Wild Humphrey [Kinaston's] time the castle of Myddle was never in-

¹ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1470; Close Rolls, 1 Edw. II, memb. 12, dorso.

² *Rot. Scot.*, i. 55a.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1307-1313, p. 62.

⁴ Second series, vii. p. 10.

habited, but went utterly to ruin ; of the one turret that remains at the present time part of the tower fell down in an earthquake about the year 1688.

Mr. Egerton adds :

When I first came to Myddle in 1847 the appearance of the top of the turret corresponded with Gough's account, but when the late Lord Alford visited Myddle a short time after, he gave his Agent orders to preserve the Tower from falling any worse. The Agent did so, and at the same time crenellated the top in the manner in which it now is. There was also at that time a stone in the wall by the moat with a coat of arms on it in good preservation. A lion passant, which I imagine was that of the Lords Strange. One day, on taking some friends to see it, to my horror I found it had disappeared, nor for a long time could I discover what had become of it, till I heard it had been taken by the Agent to Ellesmere to beautify his own rockery. His successor kindly restored it, and it is now placed on the side of the Tower, where it can easily be seen, but not easily removed.

On March 4, 1309, a writ was issued to John le Strange to attend Parliament at Westminster on April 27, but it was dismissed by the King without transacting any business of importance.

In the previous year severe measures had been taken against the Order of the Templars, whose wealth and power had excited the cupidity and resentment of the King. The knights were seized in each county on the same day, January 10, 1308, and their estates were placed in charge of the Sheriffs. A mandate was issued on May 7, 1309, to John le Strange, '*custodi terrarum et tenementorum Templariorum in comitatu Salopie, et vicecomiti ejusdem comitatus*,' to hold an inquiry into the claim of the abbot of Haughmond to an annual rent of 17s. 4d., issuing out of the lands in Holtprene, held by the master and brethren of the Temple ; the inquiry was held, and on June 18 le Strange was ordered to pay the rent to the abbot, with a year's arrear thereof.¹ This writ is actually quoted by Eyton² without his having noticed that it establishes the fact that John le Strange was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1309 ; Eyton, in his list of Sheriffs of Salop, mentions no one between Richard de Harley, who occurs 1301-3, and Roger de Cheney, who witnessed a deed as Sheriff in 1316.

¹ Cole, *Doc. Illust. Eng. Hist. in Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries, from Records of Queen's Rememb. of Exchq.*, p. 187.

² vi. 227.

A Roll of Arms has been preserved of a tournament held at Stepney on May 28, 1309, at which three le Strange knights were present—viz. Sir John, who bore gules, two lions passant argent, within an orle of eight martlets, or ; Sir Fulk bore argent, two lions passant, gules ; these two are stated to have been in the retinue of the Earl of Lancaster. Sir Hamon le Strange, mentioned as '*de la Commune*,' bore, gules, two lions passant, argent, surmounted by a bendlet, or.¹

John le Strange was summoned to a Parliament to be held at Stamford on July 27, 1309, and by a further writ tested at Stamford on June 20, he was requested to prepare to join the expedition against the Scots, in such manner as should be ordained in such Parliament.² On July 30 he was ordered to be at Newcastle-on-Tyne '*equis et armis*' on Michaelmas day.³ A mandate, dated at Stamford on August 5, required him to raise a hundred foot-soldiers from his lordship at Knockin, and certain commissioners of Array were empowered to act in the matter.⁴ On the same day the King wrote to Roger de Mortimer of Chirk, Justice of Wales, that, as the Scots do not observe the truce, an array is summoned against them, and lists were enclosed of the quotas to be sent from Wales ; among them is '*centum de hominibus Johannis Lestraunge de partibus de Knokyn*.'⁵ The Scotch Rolls also mention this requisition for the hundred men from Knockin ;⁶ evidently these seasoned troops from the Welsh March were regarded as especially useful.

If John le Strange, as seems probable, was in the camp at Berwick early in August 1309, it was his last service ; he must have died in the first week of that month, as the writ of '*Diem clausit extremum*' on his death is tested at Berwick on August 8.⁷ Inquisitions consequent thereon were held at various dates in the different counties in which he held land in right of himself or his wife, viz. in Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Cambridge, Oxford, and Salop, but no mention is made of Norfolk, as his manors there

¹ *Collect. Top. et Gen.*, iv. 63, 70.

³ Close Rolls, 3 Edw. II, m. 44d.

⁵ Close Rolls, 3 Edw. II, memb. 9.

⁷ Escheats, 3 Edw. II, No. 46.

² *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1470, &c.

⁴ *Parl. Writs*.

⁶ *Rot. Scot.*, i. 68a, 69b.

were not held *in capite*. The Warwick inquisition, held on September 25, shows that he held there the manor of Walton Deyville, as of the inheritance of Maud his wife, of the Earl of Warwick, by knight's service.¹ The Gloucestershire inquisition, taken at Tewkesbury on October 5, states that he held no lands or tenements as of fee in that county, but that he held, of the inheritance of Matilda his wife, at Schevyndon, one messuage, three virgates of land, and five acres of meadow, of the heirs of John le Soor by the service of 1*d.* per annum ; the said messuage being worth 18*d.* per annum, the three virgates 40*s.*, and the five acres of meadow 10*s.* ; price of the acre 2*s.* ; sum, 51*s.* 6*d.*² In Cambridge the jurors, writing on October 7, say that he held the manor of Middleton (extent given) jointly with Maud his wife, who still survives, of the Bishop of Ely by service of two knights' fees, and a pair of gilt spurs, or 6*d.* yearly.³ It is not easy to reconcile this with the settlement of Middleton in 1276,⁴ on John's first wife Alianora, by which his second wife could not have benefited ; possibly, as Eyton suggests, some intermediate transaction may have taken place ; Joan de Somery, John's mother, to whom Middleton reverted on the death of Alianora without issue, may have resettled the manor on her son's second wife. Two days before this Cambridgeshire inquisition was held, viz. on October 5, the King's escheator was ordered to deliver the manor of Middleton and the issues received to Maud, as it appeared by a fine levied in the late King's Court between John and Maud, demandants, and William Moryn, deforciant, that the said John acknowledged the manor to be the right of the said William as what he had of his gift, and that the said William granted and restored the same to the said John and Maud.⁵

An Oxfordshire inquisition, held on April 3, 1310, gives an extent of the manor of Alcrynton, held by le Strange and his wife Maud of John de Lodbrook by service of 1*d.* yearly.⁶ The Shropshire inquisitions, held on September 20, 1309, are very defective, and such as exist are in very bad condition ; the jury say that

¹ C.I.P.M., 3 Edw. II, No. 46.

² Chancery Inq. p.m., 3 Edw. II, No. 46.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Supra.*, p. 186.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, Edw. II, 1307-1313, p. 179.

⁶ C.I.P.M., Edw. II, v. III, No. 211.

John le Strange held the manors of Kynton and Ness (extents given), including lands in Weston, the hamlet of Wyvelcote, Hopton, and Olreton, members of Kynton and Ness, of the King in chief by the service of one knight's fee; also the manor of Middle (extent given), which he held of Edmund fitz Alan by service of one knight; that his heir is his son John, who was of the age of twenty-seven years on Whitsunday last (May 18); also that he held the manor of Cheswardine.¹ The Close Rolls contain some entries relating to the dower of John's wife, Maud d'Eiville. On October 5, 1309, the escheator was directed to deliver to her the manor of Middle, and the issues received, as it appears by a Fine levied in the late King's Court, between John le Strange of Knockin, demandant, and Ralph de Shirleye, deforciant, that the said John acknowledged the manor to be the right of the said Ralph, as what he had of his gift, and that the said Ralph granted and rendered it to him and to the said Maud his wife.² A memorandum of October 26 states that the chancellor prefixed a day, to wit, in fifteen days from Sunday next following, for John le Strange to be present, if he so chose, at the assignment of dower to Maud in the chancery of York.³ The escheator was ordered, on October 30, 1309, to assign to Maud dower of her husband's lands, in the presence of John, his son and heir, he having done homage for them, saving to the said Maud her rights, as she has taken oath not to marry without the King's licence.⁴ On March 28 following the escheator in the county of Chester had a mandate to restore to her the manors of Stafford and Dunham, which she held jointly with her late husband for their lives, of the gift of Edmund, Earl of Arundel, which manors the escheator had taken into the King's hands on the pretext that she had married Thomas de Hastang without the King's licence.⁵ That she did marry him appears from the fact that in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 Thomas de Hastang stands as lord of Middle.⁶

John le Strange (V) left, by his second wife, Maud d'Eiville,

¹ C. Edw. II, File 16 (6).

² *Ibid.* p. 234.

³ *Ibid.* p. 202.

⁴ C. Cl. R., 1307-13, p. 179.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 184.

⁶ See also *Rot. Parl.*, i. 306.

three sons and one daughter ; the eldest son, John (VI), succeeded his father as second Lord Strange of Knockin ; the second son, Eubulo, married Alice de Lacy, and was summoned to Parliament as a baron from 1326 to 1335 ; of him I shall have more to say later. The third son, Hamon, was, immediately after his eldest brother's succession to the lordship of Knockin, enfeoffed by him in the Norfolk manor of Hunstanton, and through his descendants there carried on the name of le Strange after it had died out in Shropshire. Of the daughter, Elizabeth, I have mentioned¹ all that I know, viz. that she married Griffith ap Madog in 1304, and became the ancestress of Owen Glendower.

ROGER LE STRANGE OF ELLESMERE.

Roger, the third son of John le Strange (III), and uncle of John (V), had several Shropshire manors settled on him during the lifetime of his father. Before 1263 his father had made over to him 'whatever interest he had in little Ercall' ;² this grant involved Roger in a lawsuit with the abbot of Combermere, to whom some part of the manor had been given for a term of years by John (III) ; the suit was suspended during the troublous years that followed, but was finally settled in Roger's favour in October 1272,³ and he thus became tenant-in-fee of Little (now Child's) Ercall, with its members, Hungry Hatton, the Lee, and Goldstone, holding of John le Strange, and he of the King in chief by the service of one knight's fee.⁴ An extent of Little Ercall, made in October 1280, states that Roger's gross receipts were only 15s. 8d. per annum, but, for some unexplained reason, they only valued a moiety of the manor.

Cheswardine, which like Little Ercall had come to John le Strange (I) on the death of his younger brother Hamon, c. 1160,⁵ was one of the estates settled in fee by John (III) on his son Roger ; the Edward Lloyd Roll, quoted above, states that Roger held that manor with its members, viz. Soudley Magna and Parva,

¹ *Supra*, p. 215.

² Eyton, viii. 13.

³ Assizes, 56 Hen. III, m. 11, dorso.

⁴ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* i. 112, from a Roll in the collection of Edward Lloyd, of tenants *in capite* and sub-tenants in Shropshire, *temp.* Edw. I.

⁵ *Supra*, p. 30.

Westumscete, Chepernoll', and Hull, of John le Strange, and he of the King in chief; but that Roger owed service to the King of one knight's fee, and had there his free court, with pleas of bloodshed, and hue-and-cry, and had warren, which franchises he had used; we shall see later on that these franchises were called in question by the Crown officials. Eyton thinks¹ that it may have been between the years 1260 and 1265 that Roger, as lord of Cheswardine, confirmed to Haughmond Abbey its previous acquisitions in this manor. The extent of Cheswardine is given as 44 acres and two mills in demesne, the whole income of the manor being valued at £6 14s. 8½d.²

It has already been mentioned³ that in 1264 Roger, with his brothers Hamon and Robert, was in arms on the King's side against the Earl of Leicester; he escaped with Edward in the defeat of Lewes on May 14, and six days after that battle he was ordered to be sent to Ireland,⁴ but, like his brothers, he seems to have evaded exile, and continued to fight for the King. After the victory of Evesham in the following year Roger's services were rewarded by the grant of a capital messuage in the city of London, which had been forfeited by Peter Hardel, 'the King's enemy.'⁵ He received a further reward from the forfeited lands of Henry de Hastings, who had been admitted to the benefits of the '*Dictum de Kenilworth*,' but an order was made that the manors were not to be restored to him till Roger le Strange, who had a grant of the fine for their redemption, should be fully satisfied.⁶

Roger, we have seen,⁷ was one of the witnesses to his brother Hamon's assignment of the manor of Stretton to his sister Hawise de la Pole, when he started for the crusade from which he never returned; and that Hamon raised money for his expenses by enfeoffing Roger in the manors of Ellesmere, Colemere, and Hampton. These transactions had taken place without licence from the Crown, consequently the escheator for Cheshire ejected Roger from the three manors and seized them into the hand of the King, who at that time, 1273, was still absent in Palestine. Roger petitioned the Crown on the merits of the case, and an in-

¹ x. 32.

⁴ *Fædera*, i. 435.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 145.

² Forest Rolls, Salop, No. 14.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1258-1266, p. 468.

³ *Supra.*, p. 136.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 111.

quisition was held,¹ with the result that, on April 20, 1274, an order was issued to the Sheriff of Salop and the escheator of Cheshire, to deliver to Roger the manors of Colemere and Hampton, which Hamon had purchased and held of Peter de Montfort, and whereof he had enfeoffed Roger and his heirs before he took his journey to the Holy Land, to hold by permission of the King's lieutenants in England, until the King's coming back.² After Edward's return he gave, on November 24, 1275, a grant for life to Roger, with reversion to the Crown, of the castle and hundred of Ellesmere, and the manors of Colemere and Hampton, which the said Roger had of the gift of his brother Hamon, and had surrendered into the King's hands.³ The Edward Lloyd Tenure Roll shows that Hampton was held by Roger of John fitz Alan by the service of one knight's fee at Oswestry for fifteen days in time of war; and that Colemere was held by him of Bartholomew de Burgh by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.⁴

The manor and hundred of Ellesmere comprised a large extent of territory of very considerable value. It was minutely surveyed on October 28, 1280, and the report of the Commissioners,⁵ summarised as follows by Eyton, contains many curious particulars :

The Lord of the manor held 4 virgates or 324 acres in demesne, worth, at 4*d.* per acre, £6 os. 8*d.* per annum. The fines and amercements of the Borough Court exceeded 30*s.* There was an *Assize* on every brewing of beer, realising 20*s.* yearly. Two mills, the fisheries of all the Vivaries, except that of Colemere, and a garden, were items of demesne. The fines, amercements, and heriots of the [? manorial] Court were £6 13*s.* 3*d.* The gross income from the above and other similar sources was £28 os. 3*d.* The rents of tenants in burgage amounted to £3 2*s.* 6½*d.* per annum.

Then follows a list of the *Liberi Tenentes*, with their rents, services, and holdings. I select the following :

Madoc fitz Ralph held 4 virgates : rent 2*s.* or a hawk.

David de Otley held 3 virgates : rent 2*s.* 2*d.* ; services, to abide 40 days, during war, in Ellesmere Castle, at the tenant's expense : a heriot of one cuirass at the tenant's death.

¹ Inquis., 1 Edw. I, No. 37.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 125.

⁵ Forest Roll of Salop, No. 14.

² *C.F.R.*, i. p. 21.

⁴ *Coll. Top. et Gen.*, i. 120.

Edenevet de Stokes. Services, suit of court, and his arms as a heriot.

The Lady of Lunyal [now Lineal] held $5\frac{1}{2}$ virgates and some assarts.¹ Rent, 2s.; service—to victual the men-at-arms [in the castle]. Heriot, the tenant's best beast.

Stephen de Fraunketon² held 4 virgates in Ellesdon [now Elson], 1 bovat in Wodehouses, and 1 bovat in Otale. Rent, 22s.

William de Gesnok held half a virgate. Service, to keep the Lord's woods. Meuric held one-third, and Lewelin Vaghan held two-thirds of the vill of Grenhul [Greenhill]. Lewelin Vaghan and his brethren held the vill of Astwik [Eastwick]. Gorgenew fitz Madoc, Madoc fitz Yareford, Wyn Vaghan, and Lewelin fitz Wylim held the vill of Herdewick [Hardwick]. Rent, 6s. 8d.

Adam de Rugge and others held 4 virgates in Rugge [the Ridges]. Service, a fee [*gersuma*] of 2s. when any of the tenants' daughters married.

Kenewric fitz Rouhard and other Welshmen held 4 virgates in the vill of Marton.

The tenants of Horton paid 2s. rent, and were bound to victual the men-at-arms [in the castle]. The tenants of Leye [Lee] paid a like rent and service. The vill of Baggel paid 2s. rent.

The abbot of Hawemon held Stockeyth [Stocket], Newton, and Kenewic. Services, suit of Court, and to victual the men-at-arms.

Richard fitz Stephen and others held 10 acres of assarts in Birche.

William Smith of Birche held half a virgate. Service, to do the shoeing and ironwork of teams and mills in the manor, and, in war-time, to abide in the castle, and forge all necessary implements.

The amount of assarts specified in the Inquest was 195 acres; but the whole hundred of Ellesmere contained no less than $536\frac{1}{2}$ acres of assarts.³

An extent, dated November 4, 1280, of the manor of Welsh Hampton, which Roger had acquired from his brother Hamon, shows that the total annual value, including 44 acres of demesne, was £3 14s. 2d.⁴ The land there and in Ellesmere was valued at 4d. an acre, while that at Cheswardine, where there were two watermills, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ vivaries, was reckoned to be worth 8d. an acre per annum.⁵ A moiety of the manor of Child's Ercall produced £5 6s. 3d. a year.

During the last years of Henry III the shrievalty of the county and custody of the castle of York had been conferred on Roger le Strange to hold during pleasure; he was confirmed in these

¹ 'Assarts' were clearings in the forest ready for cultivation.

² Probably the man who killed Llewelyn at Orewin Bridge.

³ Eyton, x. 242-244.

⁴ *Trans. Shrops. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, xi. (2nd series), p. 260.

⁵ *Ibid.* viii. (3rd series), p. 362.

offices by Edward I soon after his accession, and was directed to render his accounts for the issues thereof; ¹ on December 12, 1272, a writ *de intendendo* was addressed to the knights, freemen, &c., of the county of York for Roger le Estraunge, appointed as Sheriff by the late King during pleasure, to the custody thereof.² There seems to have been some questions about the accounts, since the Fine Rolls of July 12, 1273, contains the following entry: The King wills that Roger le Straunge, to whom he committed of late the county and castle of York, which Henry III committed to him at will, answer at the Exchequer therefor as John de Oketon and William de Latymer, sometime Sheriffs of the county, answered.³ On October 18, 1274, Roger was relieved of the custody of the castle and county of York, and was directed to deliver them to Alexander de Kirketon.⁴ The Hundred Rolls of the 4th Edward I (1275-6) contain an inquest taken at York, at which the jury found that the servants of Roger in York Castle had done damage to the King in timber, tiles, stone, fisheries, &c., to the value of £40.⁵ Repayment for this damage was not exacted, as we find that on August 1, 1279, the Sheriffs of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Bedfordshire were ordered to respite demand upon Roger le Estraunge for debts due to the King, no doubt in consideration of his services during the war.⁶ He was also given an acquittance on November 21, 1275, for £20, surplusage of his accounts when he was Sheriff of York.⁷

Some trouble had arisen in the year 1273 concerning the possession of Chartley Castle, in Staffordshire. On May 6 a mandate was issued in the name of the absent King to Roger le Strange to deliver the custody of that castle to Richard de Clifford, the King's escheator, so that no contention may arise among the magnates until further order from the King.⁸ Apparently Roger did not at once comply with this order, as a further mandate was issued on June 27, directing Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, the King's brother, to take the castle into the King's

¹ *Rot. Orig. in Cur. Scacc.* (Rolls series), i. 20a.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 8.

⁵ *Rot. Hundr. temp. Hen. III and Edw. I*, i. 120a.

⁶ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 536.

⁸ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 9.

² *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 2.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 31.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 257.

hands, and, if necessary, the Sheriff was to employ the posse of the county to obtain possession.¹ That he did somehow obtain possession is evidenced by an order of October 30, 1276, by which the King's clerk was directed to deliver to Roger the tools, iron fittings of military engines, crossbows, quarrells, armour, &c., in the castle of Chartley, when Roger handed it over at the King's command.²

An original letter is preserved in the Record Office, dated April 8, 1272, which shows that the custody of the Castle of the Peak, Derbyshire, had been conferred on Roger le Strange by Henry III; it is an order from the Archbishop of York, Roger de Mortimer, and Robert Burnell, acting as Commissioners of Prince Edward, directing le Strange to pay over the revenues of the Peak for the current term to the Lady Constance 'quondam consors domini Henrici de Alemania,'³ to whom they have been granted. This lady was the widow of the Infante Alphonso, son and heir of Jayme I, King of Arragon; she was the eldest daughter and co-heir of Gaston de Monçada, Vicomte de Béarn, who married Henry at Windsor on May 15, 1269.⁴ A mandate of April 10, 1272, directs Roger le Strange to deliver the castle and bailiwick of the Peak to Walter de Kancia, to whom the attorneys of Edward the King's son have committed it; this was accompanied by a writ *de intendendo* to the tenants.⁵ It must be remembered that this order was issued only a few months before the King's death, when Henry was in his dotage and Edward in Palestine; the grant was probably beyond the powers of the prince's attorneys, and it certainly was not acted on, as later entries in the Patent Rolls, quoted below, show that Roger continued to exercise the office of custodian of the Peak for several years after the accession of Edward I. A further mandate two years later directs Roger le Strange, keeper of the castle and land of the Peak, to deliver to Constance £100 of rent in the Peak, long since assigned to her as dower.⁶ The Close Rolls contain several

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 17.

² *Ibid.* p. 316.

³ Royal Letters, P.R.O., No. 2493. Extended in printed vol. of *Royal Letters*, ii. 346.

⁴ *Complete Peerage*, 2nd ed., iii. 432.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1266-1272, p. 642.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 49.

entries concerning Roger's office at the Peak. On September 10, 1275, he was ordered to cause all venison in the King's larder at Tideswell to be delivered to the keeper of the King's larder at Westminster. On the following day the Justice of Chester was directed to permit Roger to take two stags in the forest of Wirhal to be salted for the King's use and sent to Westminster; and on the same day the Sheriff of Lancaster was enjoined to assist Roger in taking ten harts in the Chace of Liverpool, and to send them salted to Westminster. On September 12, Roger was commanded to permit Queen Eleanor to have a deer-leap (*saltatorium*) in the valley of Eyedale.¹

Roger le Strange's wife was Maud, widow of Roger de Mowbray, and daughter and co-heir of William de Beauchamp, of Bedford. Her first husband, Roger de Mowbray, of the Isle of Axholme, Lincolnshire, was one of the most considerable barons of the north, his father, William, having been one of the twenty-five barons appointed to enforce Magna Charta. Roger de Mowbray died 1266-7,² after her re-marriage with le Strange; Maud must have died in 1274, as an order was issued to the escheator on December 29 of that year to take into the King's hands the lands which Roger le Strange and Maud his wife, deceased, held in dower of the lands late of Roger de Mowbray, tenant-in-chief, late her husband.³ On September 12 of the following year (1275) the said escheator was directed to deliver to Roger le Strange the wardship of all the lands which Maud, late the wife of the said Roger, sometime the wife of Roger de Mowbray, held in dower of the inheritance of the said Roger de Mowbray, to hold from the morrow of Michaelmas next until the full age of the heirs of the said Roger de Mowbray, saving to the King knight's fees and advowsons, and all corn, stock, and other goods in the said lands, and rents from the said Michaelmas, and the issues of the said lands until the said morrow of Michaelmas, for which the escheator is to answer; so that the said Roger le Strange render 200 marks a year therefor.⁴

The Hundred Rolls mention several lands and tenements in

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 210.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 38.

² *Complete Peerage*, v. 410.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 52.

Bedfordshire, held by Roger le Strange by the courtesy of England in right of his late wife, of the inheritance of her father William de Beauchamp. At an inquest, taken in the 4th of Edward I (1275-6), the jury say that Roger holds in chief the vill of Scotfield, belonging to the barony of Bedford, and has tithe and assize of bread and beer.¹ In Midelton he held a knight's fee of the barony of Beauchamp, paying to the King 10s. hidage and 5s. for suit and ward.² In the hundred of Wylve he held, in right of his wife, a certain tenement by scutage for half a hide.³ His services in the first Welsh war of 1276 were requited by a grant, made by the King on November 18 of that year, by which he pardoned to Roger 100 marks yearly of the 200 marks which he was bound to render for the custody of the lands that his late wife Maud held in dower of the lands that belonged to her first husband, Roger de Mowbray, during the minority of his heir.⁴ Roger le Strange had a further grant, on November 11, 1278, when the King ordered Roger de Mowbray to permit him to make profit of pannage⁵ in the woods lately in his hands by reason of the wardship of de Mowbray's inheritance.⁶

On the outbreak of the insurrection in Wales Roger le Strange, from his knowledge of the country, was likely to be of more use to the King's service on the Welsh March than in Derbyshire; he was accordingly directed, on November 10, 1275, to transfer to Thomas de Normanvill the castle, manor, and forest of the Peak, with the receipts thereof from the previous Michaelmas.⁷ Perhaps in order to square his accounts on this transfer he was reduced to the necessity of borrowing money, as we find, from an entry in the Close Rolls of November 10, 1275, that he acknowledged to owe to Nutus and Burgesius, merchants of Florence, the sum of £142 1s. 8d.⁸

Of the prominent part played by Roger in all three of the Welsh wars during the next ten years full details have already been given, and there is little else to record of him during that

¹ *Hundred Rolls, temp. Hen. III and Edw. I*, i. 2b.

² *Ibid.* i. 4b.

³ *Ibid.* ii. 324a.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 319.

⁵ The right of feeding swine.

⁶ *C. Cl. R.*, 1272-1279, p. 483.

⁷ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 56.

⁸ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 56.

period of strenuous fighting. Through his brother Hamon, who had ejected the Welsh possessors, Roger had acquired a precarious title to the manor of Kinnerley in Shropshire. Letters patent were issued on November 13, 1277, ordering an inquisition to be made as to Roger's seisin therein. It was held at Salop on December 1; the jurors found that Hamon had ejected the Welsh intruders, and had held the manor since 1264; that Roger derived his title from his brother, and not from any feoffment of Madoc, formerly lord of the manor. The jurors, however, added that William de Audeley had a better title, as his father had been enfeoffed therein by Thomas ap Madoc, son of the original possessor.¹

The interval, 1278 to 1281, between the first and second Welsh wars was a period of comparative quiet for Roger. On June 23, 1278, the Justice of the Forest beyond Trent was directed to cause him to have four bucks in the forest of Galtres of the King's gift,² but apparently there was some difficulty in getting them, as the entry is marked '*vacated because otherwise below.*' Three months later the Justice of Chester was told to cause Roger to have four bucks of the King's gift.³ Among those who had quittance of the common summons of the eyre, on January 20, 1279, in the county of York, we find the name of Roger le Strange.⁴ On April 20 Peter de Montfort, from whom Roger had bought the manors of Colemere and Hampton five years previously, acknowledged that he owed the latter 150 marks; the entry is noted '*cancelled on payment.*'⁵ The custody of the castle of Oswestry was given on April 20 to Isabella de Mortimer for a year from Easter at a rent to the abbot of Vale Royal of £200, and for as long as she was willing to give £200; Roger was ordered to deliver it to her with the armour therein by chirograph.⁶ The Justice of Chester had a mandate on August 4 to cause Roger to have in the forest of Delamere four bucks of the King's gift.⁷

John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, during his tenure of office (1272 to 1292) was engaged in several attempts to magnify

¹ P.R.O. Misc. Chanc. Inquis., File 35 (3).

³ *Ibid.* p. 477.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 554.

⁶ C.P.R., 1272-1281, p. 309.

² C. Cl. R., 1272-1279, p. 465.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 559.

⁷ C. Cl. R., 1272-1279, p. 536.

ecclesiastical authority at the expense of the temporal power, and was suspected of mischievous designs by the King, who issued a notification on January 5, 1280, to him and other prelates who had been convoked at London, that Roger le Strange and Hugh fitz Otto, steward of the household, 'were sent to make appeals on the King's behalf that in the said convocation they presume nothing against the King's Crown or dignity, and to command them not to hold their council touching anything pertaining to the Crown as they love their baronies, and to exhort them to make a fitting subvention to the King.'¹ The result of the archbishop's policy was that Parliament promptly supported the supremacy of the royal authority, and passed the Statute of Mortmain, by which all lands given in future into the 'dead hand' of the Church without the King's special licence were forfeited.

The Close Rolls for 1280 contain an enrolment of an agreement between Sir Roger le Strange, knight, and Guy le Blunt, clerk, whereby the latter demised to Roger for life his houses in Wode Street, in the parish of St. Peter's, London, excepting shops facing that street, and 20s. of yearly rent in the street of Goderonelan[e], with provision that sufficient chambers shall remain to Guy and his wife and children for their residence; Roger to do repairs and build at his own cost. For this demise Roger released to Guy all his right in the said houses by grant of Henry III.² Another entry in the same Rolls, under date of November 26, 1280, shows that the manor and fishery of Shotwick pertaining to the fishery of Chester was in the hands of Roger le Strange.³ The Exchequer Calendars for 1282-3 record that Roger received the sum of £10 sterling by precept from the Keeper of the Wardrobe.⁴

During the early part of 1283 Roger le Strange appears to have been in Ireland, as a receipt from him exists at the Record Office, dated at *Tewein* [Tuam] on May 2 of that year, for twenty casks of wine, the gift of the King, and four casks, the gift of the Queen.⁵

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1272-1281, p. 359.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 44.

³ *Ibid.* p. 70.

⁴ *Kalendars of the Exchequer*, i. 76, No. 6.

⁵ *C.A.D.*, iii. 322, c. 3045, Ireland.

After the defeat and death of Llewelyn the great services which had been rendered by Roger le Strange were rewarded by his appointment by Edward to the important and lucrative office of Justice of the Forest south of the Trent in succession to Luke de Tany, who had been slain in the previous November at the disastrous defeat at Bangor. The patent, issued on October 21, 1283, commits the office to Roger during pleasure, 'so that the bailiffs and ministers, and others whom he shall charge with the issues and other things belonging to the King answer to the King, and so that he bring his Rolls to the Exchequer at the end of each year.'¹ For the discharge of the multifarious duties of the office he received an annual salary of £100, with numerous fees and perquisites in addition.² The following entries in the Rolls of the next few years will give some idea of the varied duties and emoluments attached to and accruing from the office, as well as the wide extent of his jurisdiction. In 1285-6 he was ordered to sell wood within the bounds of the forest of Rockingham on the view of Richard de Holebrok.³ On November 15 he had a writ of summons for the eyre for pleas of the forest in Norfolk before himself and others.⁴ On March 5, 1284, he was ordered to cause the Bishop of Lincoln to have in the forest of Rutland six live bucks and fourteen live does ;⁵ on the 18th of that month to cause John de Grey to have twelve oaks at Haule and Salcey ;⁶ to allow Grimbald Pauncefot to have in the forest of Dean twelve oaks of the King's gift ;⁷ on May 10, 1284, he was allowed himself to have an oak yearly in the *hay* [enclosure] of Welynton, and his men to have *estover* [an allowance] of dead wood.⁸ By mandate of May 13, 1285, he was commanded not to molest Edmund Earl of Cornwall, to whom the King has granted leave to pass through the forest to hunt and take certain stags within their chaces.⁹ He had a commission on June 4, 1284, to hold a court of Oyer and Terminer touching those who hunted and carried away deer, and felled and carried away trees in the park of Eleanor, late wife of Robert

¹ *Pat. Roll. of 11 Edw. I*, 101, m. 5.

² *Rot. Orig. in Cur. Scacc.*, i. 51b.

³ *Ibid.* p. 257.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 259.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 266.

⁶ *Liberate Rolls*, 542-5, p. 50b, No. 5.

⁷ *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 379.

⁸ *Ibid.* p. 260.

⁹ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 161.

de Ferrers, at Chartley, Salop.¹ Mandate was issued to Roger, dated April 7, 1290, to permit Ela, Countess of Warwick, the King's kinswoman, to have one cartload of firewood daily in the forest of Wychwood from old oaks : ² an order on March 27, 1286, to cause trenches to be made in the common passages [*passibus*] of the forest of Chet, and the underwood to be cut down and sold, pursuant to the statute provided herein for the preservation of the peace, and safety of travellers through the King's forests and woods.³ A similar order as to passages in the forest of Rockingham.⁴ Roger was directed on January 28, 1289, to cause Queen Eleanor to have in the forest of Selewode twenty oaks, to make palings to enclose her park at Camel, of the King's gift.⁵ He had an order on March 2, 1291, to permit John Luvel to fell underwood of his wood within the forest of Wychwood, and to enclose it with a small ditch and low hedge, so that the King's deer may go in and out of it.⁶ On September 18 of the same year he had a mandate to permit the abbess of Romseye and her tenants, within and without the bridge of Bradebrugg, to be acquitted of the lawing [*expeditatio*] of their dogs.⁷ After holding an inquisition *ad Quod Damnum*, Roger was bidden, on April 20, 1284, to permit the abbot of Shrewsbury to enclose ten acres at Astleye, by Bridgnorth.⁸ In fact, the Patent, Close, and Fine Rolls of this decade are crowded with instructions sent to Roger le Strange as Justice of the Forests with respect to gifts from the King, of timber, underwood, bucks, and deer ; as to trespasses of venison, and other encroachments, in places as far apart as Sarum, Essex, Devon, Southampton, Windsor, Winchester, and Rutland ; he was appointed at different times a Justice in Eyre to hold pleas of the forest at Derby, Buckingham, Oakham, Chelmsford, Huntingdon, and Northampton. A very considerable part of his time must have been occupied in riding all over the Midlands and the southern counties in performance of these various duties ; small wonder

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 208.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 225.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1288-1296, p. 3.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 178. This was the cruel obligation on tenants within the royal forests to cut out the ball of their dog's feet.

² *Ibid.* p. 349.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 227.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 163.

⁸ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 119.

that, on one occasion of a petition for the redress of some grievance, King Edward directed his justices then sitting at Shrewsbury to inquire into the matter, 'seeing that Roger le Strange, Justice of the Forests beyond Trent, had no leisure to do so.'¹ It is worth pointing out that '*cis and ultra Trentam*' were merely terms relative to the King's abode at the date of the issue of a writ, and in the last-mentioned instance show that the writ was issued in the north.

In addition to the grant of this lucrative office, and of the extensive manor of Ellesmere, Roger received several smaller favours from the King. On the conditions of the *Dictum de Kenilworth* he had held the lands of William de Byrmyngham, a rebel killed at the battle of Evesham.² He had a gift from the King on July 22, 1284, of the houses and rents late of Guy le Clerke in London, which came into the King's hands by the forfeiture of the said Guy, to be held by the services due to the King and other lords of the fee.³ The King, on May 9, 1284, ratified grants for life made by Roger le Strange to his retainers out of the manor of Ellesmere of small portions of land forfeited by Welsh rebels, and enlarged the same into fee simple.⁴

In spite of these grants and enfeoffments Roger was unable to meet the expenses of his position without again having recourse to loans, as to which the Close Rolls contain several entries. We find him, on May 27, 1280, acknowledging a debt of 10 marks to John de Aquâ,⁵ with Roger de Clifford and Henry de Erdington as his sureties.⁶ In the next year he acknowledged that he owed to Guncelin de Badlesmere forty marks, to be levied in default on his Shropshire lands.⁷ In 1285 he borrowed £60 from Bonrencinus Gwalterii and his fellows, merchants of Lucca.⁸

The Roll of fees held of the King in chief which were assessed for Feudal Aids in different counties during the years 1284 to 1286, mentions the following as being held by Roger *per legem Anglie*,

¹ Placita de Juratis, 20 Edw. I, m. 27; dors.; Eyton, iii. 216.

² Abbrev. Placit., Ric. I-Edw. II, p. 208a.

³ C. Ch. R., 1257-1300, ii. 276.

⁴ C.P.R., 1281-1292, p. 120.

⁵ Acqua, near Ferrara.

⁶ C. Cl. R., 1279-1288, p. 51.

⁷ Ibid. p. 123.

⁸ Ibid. p. 379.

in right of his late wife : Ryarsh in Kent for half a knight's fee, rendering 30s. to Rochester Castle, suit to the hundred, and 3s. 4*d.* to the Sheriff ; ¹ in Bedfordshire one knight's fee in Middleton, of the heirs of Beauchamp ; ² another in Hatteleye ; ³ half a hide of land in Stockton, of the Barony of Bedford ; ⁴ in Great Holewelle a moiety of three parts of a knight's fee ; ⁵ in Goldington half a knight's fee of the barony of Bedford.⁶ The same Rolls mention that he held in his own right the manors of Ercalewe and Cheswardine in Shropshire of John le Strange.⁷

Dean Hook, in his 'Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury,' says : ⁸

The King suspected Peckham of un-English designs to such an extent, that, when that Primate on the 30th April 1286, assisted by three Prelates and some doctors, met only to consider some erroneous propositions concerning the body of Our Lord after His death, the King sent Roger L'Estrange and Hugh Fitz Otto to watch their proceedings.

These were the same emissaries who had been employed by Edward six years earlier to check the manœuvres of the archbishop.⁹

A precept, tested at Westminster on February 16, 1288, directed Roger le Strange to give credence to William de Henley, prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, concerning the matters which he was commissioned to declare.¹⁰ King Edward was at this time in Gascony, and had left his cousin Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, as regent ; the latter, on October 13, summoned a council to meet at Westminster, and among the barons to whom writs were directed we find the name of Roger le Strange.¹¹

The Patent Rolls of January 15, 1290, contain a confirmation of a grant in fee simple by Roger le Strange to William de Farndon, citizen and goldsmith of London, of certain houses and rents there formerly granted to the said Roger by the King when they escheated on the forfeiture of Guy le Clerk ; ¹² we have seen that this grant

¹ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, vol. iii.

² *Ibid.* i. 1.

³ *Ibid.* i. 3.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 5.

⁵ *Ibid.* i. 5.

⁶ *Ibid.* i. 6.

⁷ *Ibid.* iv. 220, 222.

⁸ iii. 345.

⁹ *Supra*, p. 231.

¹⁰ *Parl. Writs*, i. p. 1288.

¹¹ *Parl. Writs*, i. ; *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, p. 519.

¹² *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 336.

was made in 1284.¹ Roger was one of the witnesses to a quit-claim, enrolled at Westminster on May 15, 1290, from John, son of Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn to his eldest brother Owen of all his father's lands in England and Wales.² A commission of Oyer and Terminer was held on June 10 of that year, touching the lands which Roger le Strange, late Bailiff of Builth, took into the King's hands on account of the discord between the heirs of Owen, son of Meuricus.³

King Edward, while engaged in Gascony in 1287 in arbitrating between the French and Arragonese on account of Sicily, was seized with severe illness which induced him again to assume the Cross. On his recovery Pope Nicholas IV granted to him in 1288 the tenth of the revenues of all ecclesiastical property in England, Scotland, and Ireland to enable him to carry out the crusade which he had promised to undertake. The assessment of the value of this property, known as the *Taxation of Pope Nicholas*, was not completed until 1291, the year of the fall of Acre, and the last remnant of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem on the mainland of Syria; this did not, however, prevent Edward from collecting the money assigned for the recovery of the Holy Sepulchre, and he made use of it for his war against France. The Rev. William Hudson has made a carefully tabulated collation of this assessment with a similar one made in 1254, known as the *Norwich Taxation*, as far as relates to the diocese of Norwich.⁴ An extract from this, given below, shows the differences in value at those two dates of Church property in the parishes comprised in the Hunstanton estate.

During the summer of 1291 King Edward obtained from the three competitors to the Scottish throne—Balliol, Bruce, and Hastings—the admission of his claim as lord paramount to hear and determine the right of succession; the minor competitors, and many other Scots barons, followed the example of the three chief claimants; but the Pope had also a claim to feudal superiority over that kingdom, so Edward sent envoys to Rome to obtain from Nicholas IV a confirmation of the recognition which had

¹ *Supra*, p. 235.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 401.

² Rot. Wall., 14-23 Edw. I, m. 7, dors.

⁴ *Norf. Arch.*, xvii. 46-157.

been made by the competitors that the Scottish Crown was dependant on that of England. The envoys chosen for this purpose by Edward were John of St. John and Roger le Strange. Letters of protection were issued on September 19, 1291, until a fortnight after Easter, to Roger le Estraunge, going beyond seas on the King's

Parish	Norwich Taxation of 1254			Taxation of Pope Nicholas of 1291		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Snettisham	16	0	0	26	13	4
Vicaria	—			5	0	0
Heacham	16	0	0	22	13	4
Vicaria	4	0	0	5	6	8
Ringstead Parva	4	0	0	—		
„ Great, St. Peter's	13	6	8	14	13	4
„ „ St. Andrew's	10	0	0	8	13	4
Hunstanton	16	0	0	18	0	0
Vicaria	4	14	3	6	13	4
Portio Prioris Sci Wynewaloci	0	10	0	0	13	4
Portio Prioris de Sporle	—			1	10	0
Holme, cum Vicaria	22	13	4	40	0	0
Portio abbatis de Rameseye	0	13	4	0	13	4
Portio Prioris de Sporle	2	0	0	—		
Portio Radulphi de Berry	1	6	8	—		
Sedgeford, Personatus	20	0	0	30	0	0
Total	131	4	3	180	10	0

affairs by command of the King, and to Henry de Urtiaco, his knight, going with him ;¹ from the Italian name of the latter it looks as if he were taken out as interpreter. Similar letters were issued on September 24 to Robert Body, going with Roger beyond seas till midsummer ;² on October 26 to Lewis de la Pole, going to the Court of Rome as King's messenger for one year ;³ and, on December 17, to Philip de Say, clerk of Roger le Strange, going with him beyond seas.⁴ Apparently, therefore, the envoys did not

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 445.

² *Ibid.* p. 446.

³ *Ibid.* p. 447.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 443.

start until Christmas-time. They arrived in Rome and presented their letters of credence in February 1292, as is shown by the following letter addressed by the Pope to King Edward on February 12 :

John de St. John and Roger called Lestrangle, knights, the King's Envoys, have presented their letters of credence. It is not fitting that great and grave matters should be treated in letters of credence, nevertheless the Pope has received them and the Envoys with paternal affection, and is glad to hear that the King's zeal and fervour about the Holy Land are not less than before. With regard to the tenth of those realms whose rulers have not gone personally to the Holy Land, for which the King asks, any residue shall be disposed as he desires ; from France none has come to hand, nor from Castile, Pope Gregory having granted it to King Alfonso ; from Almain and the north very little has come ; expenses are great, but whatever can be produced shall be sent. With regard to the remainder of the tenth from England, the Pope is ready to hand over to the King the residue agreed on between him and the Church, but reminds him that it is assigned to him on condition of his setting out for the Holy Land, and the compact must be carried out.¹

It will be noticed that there is not a word in the above letter about Scotland, and it is evident that both King and Pope were desirous of discussing and settling other and more weighty matters, besides the succession to the Scottish throne. This is confirmed by another letter written by Nicholas IV to Edward a few days later (on February 18) : he complains that Papal Letters relating to ecclesiastical affairs are not allowed to be presented in England ; his own letters of complaint have received no answer, though the King's envoys, John de St. John and Roger called ' Lestrangle,' have declared that the King is at peace with the prelates and clergy of his realm. The Pope calls on the King to give an answer to each particular.² Lingard says, with respect to confirming the recognition by the competitors that the Scotch Crown was dependant on that of England, that the pontiff, having consulted his cardinals, gave a civil but positive refusal, as such approval might injure ' that right which the Roman Church itself possessed in the kingdom of Scotland.'³ This refusal, if given, was certainly not persisted in, and it is evident that St. John and le Strange's

¹ *C. Pap. L.*, 1198-1304, i. 555.

² *Ibid.* i. 556.

³ Lingard's *Hist. of England* ii. 264.

diplomacy was successful, as on March 1, 1292, the Pope wrote to King Edward that he granted the petition of the envoys, praying him to confirm the submission made to him by certain persons who assert their right in Scotland.¹ Roger must have stayed some time longer in Rome, as on April 18 a further letter of protection was issued for him until Michaelmas, staying beyond seas on the King's service.² He was home by August, as on the 18th of that month he and two others were appointed Justices in Eyre of the forests in Essex for this turn.³ That he was busily employed during the winter of 1292-3 is shown by his being granted a quittance of the common summons of the eyre for Salop on August 10, 1292,⁴ and again on February 19, 1293.⁵ The following entry in a chronicle shows that he was sitting at Chelmsford to hold the pleas of the forest for the whole winter from Michaelmas 1292 until Lent 1293:

A.D. 1292. Rogerus Extraneus, Capitaneus Justiciarius foreste citra Trentam, et socii sui, videlicet Symon de Elesworth et Johannes de Crokesle, inceperunt placita foreste apud Chelmesforde in quindena Sancti Michaelis, et sederunt usque primam ebdomadam quadragesime.⁶

During his absence abroad some busybody on behalf of the Crown contested his right to certain franchises in his manor of Cheswardine, and he was summoned to show how he claimed to hold pleas of the Crown, and to have waifs there.⁷ He called his nephew, John (V) of Knockin, to warranty, who appeared *coram Rege* in Easter term 1293, and produced the charter of Henry II, granting Cheswardine '*cum pertinenciis*' to his '*antecessor*' Hamo, whose heir he was.⁸ John argued that the scope of the word '*pertinenciis*' must be determined by the immemorial usage of his ancestors. The King's attorney replied that *view of frankpledge*, *wayf*, and *infangthef*, being integrals of the Crown, could not be conveyed in any but special terms.⁹ Eyton says that he finds many adjournments but no decision on the point.¹⁰

¹ *C. Pap. L.*, 1198-1304, i. 557.

³ *Ibid.* p. 506.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 311.

⁷ *Plac. de Quo Warr.*, Edw. I-III, p. 720b.

⁹ Plea Rolls *coram Rege*, 21 Edw. I, 36 dors.

² *C.P.R.*, 1281-1292, p. 485.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1288-1296, p. 271.

⁶ *Flores Historiarum* (Rolls series), iii. 85.

⁸ *Supra*, p. 25.

¹⁰ x. 33.

The name of Stephen de Frankton, Roger's retainer who had killed Llewelyn, turns up again in 1293. It has been mentioned¹ that in 1275 Roger had obtained for him a pardon for his abjuration of the realm; either the validity of this pardon had been called in question, or else Stephen had got into fresh trouble, as on May 10, 1293, the Patent Rolls record a pardon, granted at the instance of Edmund, the King's brother, to Roger le Strange, who was charged before the Justices in Eyre in the county of Suffolk with harbouring Stephen de Frankton, a felon, who had abjured the realm of Henry III.²

During the years 1293-5 the Rolls show that Roger was busily engaged as Justice of the Forest south of Trent. On June 4, 1293, he held an inquisition in Essex;³ on the Sunday after Michaelmas 1293 we find him holding an inquisition *ad Quod Dampnum* as to a grant to Hugh le Despenser of 30 acres in the forest of Bradenham.⁴ On November 15 following he sat on a commission of *Oyer and Terminer*, on a complaint by William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, that certain persons had hunted deer and felled oaks and other great vert in his free chace of Sutton, in the counties of Warwick and Stafford.⁵ A pardon was granted on August 1, 1294, to Walter le Hunte, in Colchester gaol, who had been condemned to three years' imprisonment before Roger le Strange and his fellows, Justices in Eyre in the forest of Essex, for trespass in taking bucks and does in the park of Hugh, son of John de Nevill, of the residue of the sentence, on condition that he serve in Gascony.⁶

Roger le Strange was summoned on June 24, 1295, to the Parliament which was to meet at Westminster on August 1, and again to that at Westminster on November 13, which was prorogued to the 27th of that month.⁷ He was regularly summoned as a baron to Parliament after that date, and therefore was later regarded as the first of his family who became a baron by writ.

¹ *Supra*, p. 197.

² *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 13.

³ *Ibid.* p. 19.

⁴ Chanc. Inq. A Q.D., Edw. I, File 19 (8).

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 42.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 82.

⁷ *Parl. Writs*, edited by Sir F. Palgrave, i. 29, No. 2.

A significant entry, ordering a gift of venison, appears in the Close Roll of April 21, 1296; it is addressed to Roger le Strange, Justice of the Forest, or to him who supplies his place,¹ and looks as if he were unable to discharge the duties of his onerous office, which however he did not give up until the following year.

Edward I pursued a more liberal policy than his ancestors had done with regard to the vexatious Forest Laws, by affording facilities for acquiring enclosures in the royal forests; on several occasions we find directions given by him empowering a Justice to rent, or even to grant portions to private individuals; for instance, on April 24, 1296, power was given to Roger le Strange to arrent, in fee simple or otherwise, to persons willing to take them, such of the King's wastes in divers forests, as, by the assize of the forest, belong to him to arrent, and to sell underwood, dead and dry wood, accounting therefor to the Exchequer.² On June 30, 1297, licence was accorded to the abbot of Haughmond, after inquiry *ad Quod Dampnum* before Roger le Strange, to enclose twenty acres of wood.³ On May 31, 1296, Roger le Strange and Simon de Ellesworth made an arrentation of forty acres in the forest of Morf, and leased them at 2*d.* per acre.⁴

Roger was relieved of the office of Justice of the Forest south of Trent by a mandate of February 12, 1297, which directed him to deliver to Hugh le Despenser the rolls, memoranda, and other things relating to it, as the King has committed that office to the said Hugh to hold during pleasure.⁵ On July 7 of the same year Roger was returned among those holding lands, &c., in the county of Salop of the yearly value of £20 or more, and as such summoned under the general writ to perform military service in person in parts beyond seas, to muster at London on July 7, 1297.⁶ There is no evidence that he served on any foreign campaign this year: the King had a quarrel with the Earls of Norfolk and Hereford, whom he requested to lead a force in Gascony, whilst he went to Flanders, but they maintained that they were not bound to go abroad except in attendance on him.

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1288-1296, p. 479.

² *Ibid.* p. 257.

³ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 382.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 187.

⁵ Eyton, iii. 217.

⁶ *Parl. Writs*, i. 291, No. 19.

In the following year Roger was incapacitated by sickness ; the King issued letters patent on May 11, 1298, nominating John de Gostwyk and Roger le Loreng for two years on account of his illness.¹ On June 3 an order was made to respite until Michaelmas next any demand on Roger le Strange for the issues of his lands forfeited before any Justice of the King, as the King has pardoned them to him ;² this no doubt had reference to his accounts as Justice of the Forest, for the satisfaction of which his own lands were liable. This order was followed by another a year later, viz. on June 19, 1299, directing that, in the debts due from him to the Exchequer, he was to be allowed the arrears of his fee for the time when he was Justice on this side Trent ;³ that he was still high in favour with the King is witnessed by a mandate of August 1, 1299, to Hugh le Despenser, his successor, as Justice of the Forest, to cause Roger to have in the forest of Whichwood eight bucks of the King's gift.⁴

When King Edward invaded Scotland in the summer of 1300 Roger le Strange was not, like his nephew John (V) of Knockin, present at the siege of Caerlaverock ; he was probably kept away by illness. Humphrey de Bohun, as Constable of England, issued a Roll containing proffers of service made at the muster at Carlisle on the Eve of St. John the Baptist, and among these we find that Roger proffered, in respect of his Bedfordshire property, the service of one knight's fee, to be done by Simon Germeyn and Thomas Arnald, and the service of half a knight's fee, to be rendered by Stephen Crevequer.⁵ It has already been mentioned⁶ that Roger, as Lord of Ellesmere, was one of the three le Stranges who sealed the barons' letter to the Pope on February 12, 1301 ; and although this is not conclusive as to his presence at Lincoln, since messengers were sent all over England to obtain the seals thereto of absent barons, it is not improbable that he was sufficiently recovered from his illness to attend in person the Parliament held at Lincoln during that month, since the Close

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 350.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1296-1302, p. 165.

³ *Ibid.* p. 254.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 263.

⁵ *Doc. Hist. Scot.*, ed. by Sir F. Palgrave, i. 224, 226.

⁶ *Supra*, p. 211.

Rolls of February 24 contain the following entry, dated from Lincoln, and addressed to the Treasurer of the Exchequer; it recites that it has been shown to the King, by petition of Roger le Strange, that whereas the King some time ago granted to Roger for his good service £100 yearly of land for life, and that there was assigned to him the King's manor of Hitchin, co. Hertford, which is extended at £62 yearly only, and that the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer have not yet assigned to him the remaining £38, at which the King marvels; he orders them to cause what is lacking of the aforesaid £100 yearly of land to be assigned to *Robert* [sic] from other lands in the King's hands without delay.¹

Roger lived for about ten years after the date of the above, but his fighting days were over, and there is little to record of his doings during those years. The Feudal Aids for 1302-3 mention the following lands as held by him in the county of Bedford: the thirtieth part of a knight's fee of his demesne at Caysho of the barony of Bedford; he, with four others, held in demesne in the vill of Bromham the fourth part of a knight's fee of the King *in capite*; the manor of Stotfold in demesne, of his portion of the barony of Bedford, to the third part of which he was assessed [*defendit se*] for one knight's fee: Haynes, Ronhale, and Ravensden with Salvo: and the third part of the barony of Bedford in Ronhale and elsewhere for one knight's fee.² On February 2, 1302, Roger had letters from the King, by reason of his sickness, nominating John de Stamford and William de Strongeford his attorneys for two years.³ In 1303 he sends the service of one knight's fee in Bedford and Bucks, for which Bartholomew de Badlesmere obtains a writ of exoneration.⁴ He obtained a charter from the King on July 24, 1304, for holding a weekly market at Cheswardine on Mondays, and also a yearly fair there of three days' duration, viz. the eve, the day, and the morrow of the Translation of St. Swythyn (July 14, 15, and 16);⁵ on which Eyton remarks that it is a good instance of the theory that fairs

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1296-1302, iv. 432.

² *C.P.R.*, 1301-1307, p. 13.

³ *Cal. Rot. Chart. and Inq. a.Q.D.*, 135a.

⁴ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, i. 12, 14, 16.

⁵ *Parl. Writs* (Palgrave), ii. div. 1471, 3.

and wakes were usually sought to be held on the anniversary of the patron saint of the Church.¹

A royal grant of April 6, 1306, sets forth that, in consideration of the long service and great expenses of Roger le Strange in the King's service, the executors of his will shall not be impeded after his death by reason of his debts to the King, or of any account for the time that he was the King's minister, from having sufficient of his goods to bury the body of the said Roger, and from performing his obsequies in a fitting manner.² On November 10, 1306, a grant was made to John de Britannia, the King's nephew,³ of [*inter alia*] the reversion of the manor of Hitchin, after the death of Roger le Strange, who holds it of the King for life.⁴ A grant for life is recorded in the Patent Rolls of June 18, 1307, to Matilda, wife of Roger le Strange, in case she survive her husband, of £10 a year from the farm of the town of Bedford by the hands of the bailiffs, as the said Roger only holds lands for life and holds none in fee whereof she might have dower. Who this Matilda was does not anywhere appear; his first wife, Maud de Beauchamp, died, as we have seen,⁵ in 1274, and these very Bedfordshire lands were held by Roger, in right of her, by the courtesy of England. I find no mention as to the parentage of this second wife: that he left a son and a daughter, whom Eyton supposes to have been illegitimate, we shall see later.⁶

Edward I died on July 7, 1307, and under the new King a grant was made, on June 18, 1308, to Robert de Kendale and Margaret his wife for their lives of the reversion of the manor of Hiche,⁷ upon the death of *Robert* [*sic*] le Strange, tenant for life.⁸ On July 14 this grant for life was enlarged into a grant to them and the heirs male of their bodies, on the death of Roger;⁹ and on October 4 Roger was ordered to attorn to Robert de Kendale and his wife, to whom the King had granted the reversion of the manor.¹⁰ An entry on the Plea Rolls for the 2nd of Edward II,

¹ Eyton, x. 33, *n*.

² *C.P.R.*, 1301-1307, p. 422.

³ John de Bretagne, Earl of Richmond, born 1266; son of John (II) Duke of Brittany, by Beatrix, second daughter of King Henry III.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1301-1307, p. 471.

⁵ *Supra*, p. 229.

⁶ Eyton, x. 222.

⁷ Hiche=Hitchin.

⁸ *C.P.R.*, 1307-1313, p. 79.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 133.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 139.

'*coram domino rege et consilio suo*,' sets forth that Roger was impleaded for divers extortions made by him in Derbyshire while he was bailiff of the Honour of the Peak ;¹ but there is nothing to show whether the matter was followed up. The reversion of the manor of Ellesmere was given by Edward II on April 30, 1309, to Queen Isabella, to hold at pleasure.² An entry of June 5, 1310, states that Roger le Strange who is in bad health has letters nominating John de Staunford and Richard de Hawems his attorneys for two years.³

The King's writ of *Diem clausit extremum*, ordering the escheator to hold his inquest on the death of Roger le Strange, was issued in error on July 26, 1311, five days before he actually died ; the first inquisition was held at Leighton Buzzard, in Buckinghamshire, but is not dated ; the jury found that Roger held no land in that county of his own, but held certain lands *per legem Anglie de hereditate Matilde de Mountbray*, his wife, and certain lands for life by the demise of Roger de Mountbray, and that John de Mountbray, son and heir of Roger de Moubray, is nearest heir of Matilda de Moubray, and is of the age of twenty-two years and more. A further inquisition was held at Bedford on August 19 concerning the castle of Bedford, and lands held by Roger in right of his wife ; it ends up :

Et dicunt quod Rogerus Extraneus xxvj^o die Julii, quo die Rex per breve suum supposuit ipsum esse defunctum, superestes fuit, et quod obiit ultimo die Julii.⁴

The same inquest gives the following list of lands held by Roger 'de hereditate Matilde uxoris sue' :

Linchelade tenementa ibidem	} Bucks.
Bedeforde castrum	
Situs castri de Bedeforde	} Bedford.
Hawnes cum maneriis de	
Wylynton et Scottefeld extentis	
Bromhum tenementa ibidem	
Bereford tenementa ibidem	
Wutton tenementa ibidem	

¹ Abbrev. Placit., Ric. I to Edw. II, p. 187a.

² *Ibid.* p. 156.

³ *Ibid.* p. 229.

⁴ Chanc. Inq., 5 Edw. II, File 27 (2) ; old reference No. 67.

That Roger le Strange did marry a second wife, also of the name of Matilda, is conclusively proved by three entries in the Close Rolls. The bailiffs of Bedford were ordered, on December 18, 1311, to pay out of their farm £10 yearly to Matilda, late wife of Roger le Strange, which the late King had granted her because her husband did not hold any lands in fee whereof she could be maintained according to the requirements of her estate in case she survived the said Roger.¹ On October 1, 1312, the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer had an order to allow the bailiffs of Bedford in their farm £10, which the King ordered them on August 28 last to pay to Matilda, late the wife of Roger le Strange, which the late King granted that she should receive after the death of her husband from the farm of that town;² and, on April 3, 1313, a similar order was issued to the bailiffs to pay her yearly £10 from July 31, 1311, the date of her husband's death.³ Further orders, enjoining payment of arrears to Matilda, were issued in 1314, 1315, 1318, 1331, and 1332.⁴ She was still alive in 1337, as on February 9 of that year a receipt of hers appears in the Close Rolls.⁵

Roger le Strange appears to have left two children, John and Lucia, whom Eyton supposes to have been illegitimate.⁶ John is mentioned as the son of Roger in the Inq. p.m. of William de Ercalewe, who died in 1304,⁷ where it is stated that the deceased held 60s. rent at Parva Soutley under John son of Roger le Strange.⁸ John was enfeoffed by his father in Cheswardine, and is entered as lord thereof in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316. John of Cheswardine, by licence dated March 1, 1315, was empowered to enfeoff Fulk le Strange of Blackmere in the manor of Cheswardine, held in chief, and for the latter to devise the manor to the feoffer for his life, with remainder to Hamon, son of Fulk, and his heirs, by fine of £10.⁹ Eyton points out that John thereby disinherited his own sister Lucia, and that the fine whereby this was effected was levied

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1307-1313, p. 389.

² *Ibid.* p. 479.

³ *Ibid.* p. 523.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1313-1318, pp. 47, 142, 541; *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, pp. 218, 445.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1337-1339, p. 380.

⁶ Eyton, x. 222.

⁷ Inq. p.m., 32 Edw. I, No. 21.

⁸ Eyton, ix. 89.

⁹ *C.P.R.*, 1313-1317, p. 255.

by royal warrant on November 12, 1315 ;¹ also that this explains how, in the inquisition taken on October 22, 1330, on the death *s.p.* of John le Strange of Cheswardine, it was found that he died seized of nothing in demesne. The manor, of which an extent is given, is said to include a ruined castle, held for his life of the King in chief by service of half a knight's fee, of the grant of Fulk le Strange, made by the King's licence, and by fine levied in the King's Court, with remainder in fee to Hamon, son of the said Fulk. John de Leybourn, son of Lucy, sister of the said John, aged thirty, is his next heir. Simon de Leybourn, husband of Lucia, died in 1309.² I have no evidence to show who was the mother of John and Lucia ; it is of course possible that they may have been the issue of Roger's second wife Matilda, but it is difficult to believe that they were legitimate, since no inquest gives John as the heir of Roger, and the latter would scarcely have been content to hold his fiefs for the term of his life only if he had an heir to succeed him in his lands and barony. John of Cheswardine was never summoned as a baron to Parliament, and no claim to the peerage created by his father's summons has ever been made. He died in 1330, when his heir was found to be his nephew, John de Leybourn.³ Courthope says of him :

Lucy, his sister, married, firstly, Guy de St. Armand, and secondly, Simon de Leyburne, by whom she was mother of John de Leyburne, cousin and heir of the said John le Strange ; he died *s.p.*, leaving Catharine his sister and heiress, wife of Geoffrey de Lucy, father of Geoffrey, father of Reginald, father of Sir Walter de Lucy, who left two daughters and co-heirs, Eleanor wife of Thomas Hopton, and Matilda wife of William Vaux (grandfather of Nicholas Vaux, Lord Vaux of Harrowden), among whose descendants this Barony [Strange of Ellesmere] is still in abeyance.⁴

For fifty years, distinguished both in field and council, Roger le Strange had carried to a still higher degree the honourable traditions of his House. We have seen him loyal to his liege lord all through the Wars of the Barons, rewarded by the grant of Ellesmere, the shrievalty of Yorkshire, and the custody of the

¹ *Rot. Orig. in Cur. Scacc.*, 8 Edw. II, i. 212b.

² *Inq. p.m.*, 2 Edw. II, No. 24.

³ *Inq. p.m.*, 4 Edw. III, No. 18.

⁴ *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), vii. 268n.

Castle of the Peak ; moved thence on account of his familiarity with the Welsh March to a position of leadership during the Welsh wars, to the successful termination of which his defeat of Llewelyn greatly contributed ; then for fourteen years strenuously employed in the administration of the Forest Laws as Justice south of Trent ; adding greatly to his territorial possessions by his marriage with the widow of Roger de Moubray and heiress of William de Beauchamp ; despatched as envoy to Rome to conduct important negotiations with the Pope ; summoned to Parliament as lord of Ellesmere, and crowning his career by joining in the famous letter in which the barons of England, speaking in the name of the commonalty of the realm, upheld the independence of the Crown for all time from subservience to papal claims of feudal superiority over this country. His closing years were clouded by illness, which incapacitated him from serving in the Scotch wars of Edward I ; but that monarch was not forgetful of his old servant, and requited his long and faithful services by further grants, as well as by securing a provision for his widow, which was punctually carried out by Edward's successor on the throne.

JOHN LE STRANGE OF ERCALL, OR ERCALEWE.

A John le Strange of Ercalewe, distinct from John of Cheswardine, and from John of Knockin, appears between the years 1305 and 1309, but I have not come across any evidence to show whether he was related to either of the others. He was returned as a knight of the shire for Salop, under the designation of '*Johannes le Estraunge de Ercalewe*,' to the Parliament meeting at Westminster on February 16, 1305,¹ to that of May 30, 1306 ;² and obtained his writ *de Expensis* for attendance at the last-mentioned Parliament on the same day.³ In 1307 he was again returned for Salop to the Parliament of October 13 at Northampton,⁴ and also to that meeting at Westminster on April 27, 1309.⁵ On August 26 of that year he was appointed one of the assessors and collectors

¹ *Return of M.P.'s*, i. 19.

² *Ibid.* p. 22.

³ *Parl. Writs*, i. 178.

⁴ *Return of M.P.'s*, i. 28.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 31.

for Salop of the twenty-fifth granted in the last Parliament for the war with Scotland ;¹ and, on December 18, was one of the three Justices named to receive and hear complaints.² The manuscripts of the Corporation of Shrewsbury comprise two deeds of his : the first, a grant from Johannes Extraneus, lord of Ercalewe, and Matilda his wife, to Sir Philip de Say, rector of Hodenet, of one virgate in Harpecote, which he had from Sir William le Botiler, of Wem ; the first witnesses are Sir Fulk le Strange, and Sir William le Botiler ; the second deed, dated October 14, 1309, is a grant from John Lestraunge of Ercalewe to Sir Thomas Corbet and Robert his son of the manors of Morton Toret, Hemme, Hynton, &c.³

LE STRANGE OF FRANSHAM.

In dealing with this branch of the family in a former chapter,⁴ I brought down their pedigree to an Alexander le Strange who occurred c. 1260, and in 1275 and 1299, and mentioned that more of the family would appear again at a later period. The Feudal Aids for the year 1302 record that Ralph le Mareschal holds the fourth part of a knight's fee in Rougham and Fransham of Roger le Strange and his parceners, and the same Roger of John of Gatesden, and he of Earl Warenne, who held of the King.⁵ On May 28, 1312, Roger le Strange of Little Fransham granted to Adam Siger of Shipdham five acres of arable land in the fields of Little Fransham.⁶ In 1315 Roger le Strange appears as a witness to a deed, dated at Fransham, which will be mentioned below ; and in 1324 he was returned by the Sheriff of Norfolk as summoned by general proclamation to attend the Great Council at Westminster on May 30.⁷ He was deceased in 1428, as the Feudal

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1307-1313, p. 185.

² *Ibid.* p. 251.

³ *Hist. MSS. Comm. Report on the MSS. of Shrewsbury and Coventry Corporations*, pp. 72, 73.

⁴ *Supra*, pp. 94-97.

⁵ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, iii. 416.

⁶ B.M. Add. MSS. 23067. MS. Index to vol. i. of Original Charters to illustrate Blomefield, in Dawson Turner's printed Cat., fo. $\frac{49}{4}$, 14669.

⁷ *Parl. Writs*, ii. fo. 1834.

Aids for that year say that Ralph le Mareschal held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Rougham and Fransham of the heirs of Roger le Strange.¹

We have seen that in 1242 John le Strange, son of Roger le Strange of Fransham, held land in Little Snoring.² A deed in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton, dated July 20, 1299, is witnessed by '*John le Strange de pua Naringg^s*' (Snoring), and mentions the meadow of John le Strange at that place.³ Another Hunstanton charter, undated, and therefore presumably earlier, whereby Robert, son of Stephen of Snoring, grants for 20s. to '*Philippo, filio domini Radulphi le Strange*,' a piece of land which he may sell to anyone except to a house of religion, and is witnessed by *Johanne le Strange* and *Willelmo le Strange*; ⁴ probably these are members of the Litcham branch of the family.

In the inquest on the death of Robert de Toni, held at Necton on January 5, 1310, the first name among the jurors is '*Henrici le Estraunge*.' ⁵ Carthew cites a charter of April 21, 1315, granting 2½ acres of land in Little Fransham to Henry le Strange and Joan his wife of Little Fransham, which charter is witnessed by Roger le Strange.⁶ Henry le Strange is also certified by writ as one of the lords of the township of Fransham Parva in 1316; ⁷ and again as such in the Feudal Aids of the same year.⁸ He occurs as early as December 14, 1292, as witness to an agreement, preserved at Hunstanton, as to some lands in Lexham and Gressenhall, between Jordan ffolyot and John, son of Robert, of Little Palgrave; ⁹ and at about the same date his name occurs in another Hunstanton deed, an undated grant of homage from John Crowe to Jordan ffolyot; ¹⁰ the latter died in 1299.

The above particulars simply supply the names of three le Stranges connected with Fransham—viz. Roger, who occurs from 1302 to 1324, and Henry, with his wife Joan, who occur from 1292 to 1316, but the documents cited do not establish any connection

¹ *Feudal Aids*, iii. 595.

² *Supra*. p. 95.

³ [N.K. 26.]

⁴ [N.K. 19.]

⁵ *Inq.* p. m., 3 Edw. II, No. 33.

⁶ Carthew, iii. 184.

⁷ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1470.

⁸ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, iii. 454.

⁹ [N.A. 37.]

¹⁰ [N.A. 27.]

between these three individuals and Alexander, the last name in the pedigree already given.¹

MATILDA LE STRANGE, WIFE OF RICHARD DE LEIGHTON.

The 'Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society' ² contain some notes on deeds belonging to Leighton near Buildwas, which establish some connection between the le Stranges and the family of de Leighton which is not mentioned by Eyton when dealing with that place. A deed, dated in 1299,³ mentions that Roger le Strange the uncle, and Roger his nephew, lived at Leighton. Who were these? Roger of Ellesmere was alive then, but, as far as I know, had no uncle or nephew named Roger. An undated grant is cited, whereby Richard, lord of Leighton, gives four messuages in that place to Richard, his son by Matilda le Estrange.

Inasmuch as five Richards de Leighton succeeded one another between 1165 and 1315, it is not easy, as Eyton remarks,⁴ 'to mark the points of interval in this succession.' A deed quoted by Eyton as passed c. 1200 by the second Richard de Leighton, is attested by Hamon le Strange, probably Hamon of Wrockwardine, second son of John le Strange (I) of Knockin. By a third undated deed ⁵ Sir Richard Leighton grants to Richard his son and Mathilde le Strange his mother, and the heirs male of the said Richard, a messuage and lands in Leighton which Roger, brother to Matilde aforesaid once held. It remains to be discovered who Matilda and her brother Roger were.

THOMAS STRAUNGE, OCC. 1302.

The Patent Rolls of Edward I contain a pardon granted on February 17, 1302, at Roxburgh to William de Hothum for the death of Thomas Straunge, and of his outlawry for the same.⁶

¹ *Supra*, p. 96.

⁴ vii. 327.

² ix. 398.

⁵ No. 25 (74).

³ No. 27 (102).

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1301-1307, p. 20.

ROGER, SON OF JOHN LE STRANGE, OCC. 1305.

A pardon was granted on September 21, 1305, to William, son of Ralph de Goldyngton, in Bedford gaol, for the death of Roger, son of John le Straunge, as it appears by the record of the Justices appointed to hear and determine felonies there, that he killed him in self-defence.¹

Some entries relating to Hunstanton occur in the Hundred Rolls for Norfolk, *temp.* Edward I. In the year 1273-4 William de Plumstede extorted [*extorsit*] from the town of Hunstanton 5 marks, and in the following year 8 marks. From William Note he extorted 2s., and by the authority of his office he caused to be imprisoned the son of Roger Cloychs for theft.² A further entry states that William de Blumvill, sub-escheator, after the death of John le Strange [probably John (IV) who died in 1274] took into the King's hand the manor of Hunstanton, although it was not held *in capite*, and a horse worth twenty shillings; and Robert de Perers took of him from the manor on the same occasion to the value of nine shillings.³

¹ C.P.R., 1301-1307, p. 378. ² *Rot. Hundr. temp. Hen. III and Edw. I*, i. 465b.

³ *Ibid.* i. 523b.

PEDIGREE No. VII

JOHN LE STRANGE (V), = MAUD, d. and h. of Roger d'Eiville,
1st Lord Strange of
Knockin; summd.
to Parl. 1299; *ob.*
1309.

I. |
John le Strange (VI), = Isolda * * * *
2nd Lord Strange of *superstes* 1324.
Knockin; *b.* May 18,
1282; *ob.* 1311.

2. |
Hamon le S., = Margaret, dau.
enfeoffed in of Ralph Ver-
Hunstanton non, of Mot-
1310; *ob.* (c. tran, Cheshire.
Nov.) 1317.

3. |
Eubulo le S. = Alice de Lacy,
summd. to Countess of
Parl. 1326 Lincoln and
to 1335; Salisbury,
ob.s.p. widow of
Sept. 8, Thos. Earl of
1335. Lancaster; *ob.*
s.p. Oct. 2,
1348.

Elizabeth le S.; = Griffith ap
m. July 8, 1304. Madog, of
Glyndy-
vrdwy.

Le Strange of Knockin.

Le Strange of Hunstanton

Their grandson was
Owen Glendower.

CHAPTER VII

JOHN LE STRANGE (VI) OF KNOCKIN,
AND
HAMON LE STRANGE (I) OF HUNSTANTON

1309-1317

THE Shropshire inquisition on the death of John le Strange (V), taken on September 20, 1309, states that his son and heir, John, was then aged twenty-seven, and was born on May 18, 1282.¹ He only survived his father for about eighteen months, but that short period sufficed for him to execute the important series of documents, the evidences of which will be set out *in extenso*, by virtue of which the Hunstanton estate was vested in his younger brother Hamon, who, on his part, counter-claimed Knockin to John.

It has been mentioned² that during his father's lifetime John, son of John le Strange, was employed on the King's service in the Scotch wars; it was perhaps this which obliged him to borrow 20s. on December 12, 1308, from Adam de Osgodby, a prominent Chancery clerk under Edward II, which sum was to be levied in default on his lands in the county of Stafford.³ John, the father, had been ordered a few days before his death to raise a hundred foot-soldiers from Knockin for service against the Scots; ⁴ Edward II had other matters requiring his attention, so a truce

¹ C. Edw. II, File 16 (6).

³ C. Cl. R., 1307-1313, p. 134.

² *Supra*, p. 212.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 220.

was patched up with Scotland, and, on September 11, the custodian of the lands of John le Strange of Knockin was notified that the hundred men would not be wanted.¹

The escheator had been directed on September 8, 1309, to take into the King's hands the lands late of John le Strange of Knockin, deceased, tenant-in-chief ;² a month later, on October 6, the same official was ordered to deliver the said lands to John, son and heir of John le Strange, he having done homage ; saving to Maud, late the wife of John, her dower.³

Before the death of his father John (VI) had married a lady of the name of Isolda or Yseult, but who she was has not been recorded, though she was of sufficient importance to have been enfeoffed jointly with her husband in Knockin and other estates. Their first act after succeeding to them was the settlement of the Shropshire and Norfolk properties. Eyton says in a note :⁴

It seems from various documents (still in the possession of H. L. Styleman le Strange, Esq., of Hunstanton) that Hamo le Strange had some title to the Manor and Castle of Knokyn, and that he accepted Hunstanton in lieu thereof. The settlements connected with this exchange commence on September 6, 1309, and were completed by a Fine in Easter Term 1310. Knokyn was settled by Hamo le Strange on his brother John and on Isolda, John's wife, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the right heirs of John. Hunstanton was settled by John and Isolda on Hamo and the heirs of his body, to be held under John and Isolda by a rose-rent, with remainder to John and Isolda and their heirs.

Eyton can hardly have seen these documents, as the third of them, the grant by Hamon of December 8, 1309, supplies the explanation of his interest in Knockin. The solution is a very simple one. John (V) was anxious to make good provision for his younger son Hamon ; the eldest, John, was to have Knockin and the other Shropshire properties ; so his father executed a Statute Merchant Bond (*Statutum*) under the royal seal, whereby he covenanted to pay a thousand marks to Hamon, or to his heirs and executors, the said bond being deposited for safe custody with the prior of Wenlock.⁵ On the father's death, which occurred

¹ *Rot. Scot.*, i. 74a ; *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1470.

² *C.F.R.*, 1307-1319, ii. 49.

³ *Ibid.* p. 50.

⁴ x. 279.

⁵ Hunstn Evidence Room [A. 4.]

about July 1309, John (VI) succeeded to this obligation, the principal security for which was the Knockin property ; and as it was not convenient for him to pay up so large a sum to his brother, Hamon agreed to accept Hunstanton from his brother in full satisfaction for the debt, and on that manor being conveyed to him, to give John a release from any further claim on the Knockin property.

The four documents by which this transaction was carried into effect have fortunately survived, and are in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton ; they are of sufficient interest to be well worth giving here *in extenso*. The first in point of time is an agreement between the two brothers, dated at Shrewsbury on September 6, 1309 ; this must have passed a very few weeks after the death of their father : John undertakes to enfeoff Hamon and the heirs of his body in the manor of Hunstanton before Christmas next ; and if Hamon should die without leaving heirs of his body, that the said manor shall revert to John and Isolda, and the heirs of their bodies ; Hamon on his side undertook in the same form to enfeoff his brother John and Isolda his wife and the heirs of their bodies in the castle and manor of Knockin ; if John and Isolda should leave no heirs of their bodies, then the said castle and manor shall revert to the right heir of John : for further security to John, his brother Hamon has delivered a bond for a thousand marks, made in his favour by his father John, to the custody of Henry, Prior of Wenlock, to be kept by him until the full completion of the present agreement ; on completion whereof the said bond shall have no further value or effect, and shall be immediately handed over by the prior to John. The first witnesses to this deed were the prior of Wenlock, the lord Fulk le Strange (of Blackmere), John le Strange, lord of Ercalewe, and William of Ludlow.

The deed itself runs as follows :

Die Sabbati proxima ante festum Nativitatis beate Marie Virginis Anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi tertio apud Salopiam. Ita convenitur inter dominum Johannem, filium domini Johannis quondam domini de Knokyn ex parte una : Et dominum Hamonem, fratrem predicti domini Johannis filii domini Johannis ex parte altera : Videlicet quod predictus dominus

Johannes fideliter promisit et corporali juramento se astrinxit, ante festum Nativitatis Domini proxime futurum feoffare predictum dominum Hamonem de manerio de Hunstanstone in Comitatu Norfolciensi. Tenendum et Habendum sibi et heredibus suis de corpore suo procreatis. Et si contingat predictum dominum Hamonem sine herede de corpore suo procreato in fata decedere, tunc predictum manerium cum omnibus suis pertinentiis predicto domino Johanni et Isolde uxori sue et heredibus de iisdem procreatis libere et integre revertatur. Et predictus dominus Hamo in eadem forma, et ante predictam diem Natalem Domini feoffabit predictum dominum Johannem fratrem suum, et Isoldam uxorem eius et heredibus [*sic*] de corporibus suis procreatis de castro et manerio de Knokyn cum omnibus suis pertinentiis. Et si contingat predictos dominum Johannem et Isoldam uxorem eius sine herede de corporibus suis procreato in fata decedere, tunc predictum castrum et manerium cum omnibus suis pertinentiis heredi predicti domini Johannis libere et integre revertantur. Et ut securius predicto domino Johanni de predictis conventionibus caveatur, predictus dominus Hamo Unum Statutum continens mille marcas quod dominus Johannes Lestraunge, pater dicti Hamonis sibi fecerat tradidit fratri Henrico, Priori de Wenlok custodiendum quousque predictae conventiones plenarie compleantur: quibus completis concedit idem Hamo quod ex tunc predictum Statutum nullam vim habeat nec virtutem, set statim per predictum Henricum Priorem predicto domino Johanni fratri suo tradatur. Et ad istas conventiones fideliter tenendas predictae partes sigilla sua alternatim presentibus apposuerunt. Hiis testibus ffratri Henrico Priore de Wenlok, Domino ffulcone Extraneo, Johanne Extraneo domino de Ercalewe, Ricardo de Harele, Willelmo de Lodelowe, militibus; Reginaldo de Charnes, Galfrido Randulfo, Willelmo Hord, Griffino de Kynenarstone, Thoma Champoneys, Randulfo Pain et aliis.¹

The above agreement between the brothers was duly carried out. By an indented deed, executed at Knockin on Sunday, November 30, 1309, John le Strange and Isolda his wife (who was no doubt joined with him in order to bar any claim on Hunstanton for her dower) granted to his brother Hamon the whole manor of Hunstanton, with all its members and appurtenances whatsoever, and all knight's fees belonging thereto, to be held by him and the heirs of his body of the capital lords of the fee by the services belonging thereto: should Hamon die without heirs of his body, then the said manor shall revert to John and Isolda and the heirs of their bodies. The grant was attested by Fulk le Strange, John le Strange of Ercalewe, and several of the Shropshire witnesses who had attested the previous agreement; but it is remarkable

¹ [A. I.]

that it is also attested by seven or eight Norfolk witnesses, who must have come all the way from Norfolk to Knockin for the especial purpose of having cognizance of this important transfer of a Norfolk fief to a younger branch of the house of le Strange.

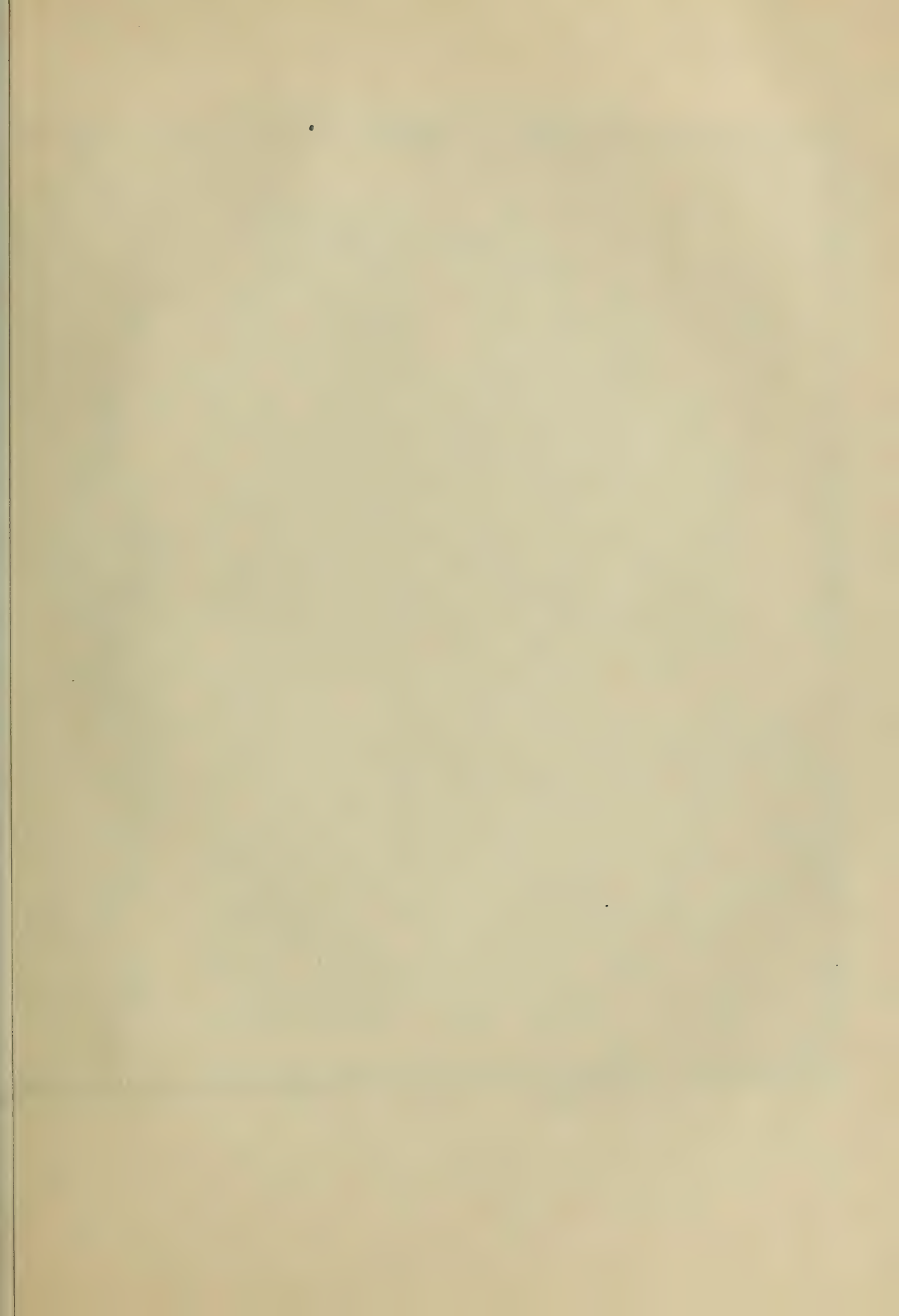
The document itself was, as usual, an indenture, and, for those who are not familiar with the meaning of that term, it may be well to explain it. A sheet of parchment was taken, a line was drawn across the centre, and along that line some word, usually the word CHEIROGRAPH, was written in capital letters; then, on each half of the parchment, commencing from the centre, identic copies of the document, word for word the same, were written; their accuracy and identity was established by reading them over in presence of the two parties and of the witnesses; the first party attached their seal or seals to one copy, which was known as the deed itself, and the second party attached their seal or seals to the other, which was called the counterpart; then a knife was drawn in a wavy or *indented* line through the word written across the centre, and of the two documents, thus separated, one, bearing the seals of the first party, was handed to the second party, while the other, bearing the seals of the latter, was delivered to the first party; thus, at any time, the authenticity of either document could be established by bringing it into juxtaposition with the other, and seeing that the teeth of the indenture fitted into each other accurately. By some curious chance, in the present instance, both the original deed and its counterpart have been preserved in the Hunstanton Muniment Room, and the photograph opposite will show that the lettering, cut through upwards of six hundred years ago, absolutely fits along the indented line. The seal of John le Strange, bearing the legend, S' JOHIS EXTRANEI DE KNOCKIN, is still attached to the original deed, but that of his wife Isolda is gone, leaving only the strip of parchment to which it was once attached. On the counterpart, unfortunately, no seals remain, though slits at the bottom show that two were originally attached. A photograph of the original and counterpart, placed in juxtaposition to show the indented line, is given opposite.

The following is an extended transcript of this indenture :

Sciant presentes et futuri quod dominus Johannes Extraneus miles, filius domini Johannis Extranei, dominus de Knokyn, et Isolda uxor mea dedimus concessimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus domino Hamundo Extraneo, fratri nostro, pro quadam summa pecunie quam nobis dedit premanibus totum manerium nostrum de Hunstanston in Comitatu Northfolchiensi cum omnibus membris et pertinentiis suis quibuscunque. Et cum omnibus feoudis militum dicto manerio pertinentibus sine aliquo retenemento. Habendum et Tenendum de capitalibus dominis feudi predicto Hamundo et heredibus suis de corpore suo legitime procreatis, in feudo et hereditate inperpetuum, libere, quiete, bene, et in pace cum omnibus suis pertinentiis et eysiamendis per servicia que ad illud manerium pertinent. Et si contingat, quod absit, dictum Hamundum infata decedere sine herede de corpore suo legitime procreato, tunc predictum manerium cum omnibus suis pertinentiis quibuscunque una cum feoudis militum predictis, nobis et heredibus nostris de corporibus nostris legitime procreatis redeat et revertatur in perpetuum. Et preterea Nos predicti Johannes et Isolda uxor mea et heredes nostri totum predictum manerium de Hunstanston cum omnibus membris et pertinentiis suis quibuscunque una cum feoudis militum dicto manerio pertinentibus predicto Hamundo et heredibus suis de corpore suo legitime procreatis pro predicto dono contra omnes Mortales Warantizabimus et defendemus inperpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus : dominis Folcone Lestrage, Johanne Lestrage de Ercalewe, Ricardo de Harleye, Thoma Corbet, Willelmo de Lodelawe, Johanne Louel, Thoma de Ingalthrop, Thoma de Snyterton, militibus, domino Thoma de Holm, Willelmo de Seggeford, Willelmo Cayly, Roberto de la Roche, Georgio de Holme, et aliis Datum apud Le Knokyn die dominica infesto Sancti Andree apostoli, anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi tertio.¹

The next step in this complicated legal process was for Hamon to enter into a covenant with his brother John for the voidance, on completion of the conveyance of Hunstanton, of the statute-merchant bond for a thousand marks, to which obligation John had succeeded on the death of his father. In addition to this recognisance John had, subsequently to that event, executed a similar bond in his own name, but for a thousand pounds instead of marks—*i.e.* one-third more—which document had been deposited in the custody of his cousin, John le Strange of Ercalewe. In this last-named bond were joined, with John (VI), Agneta, the widow of Laurence de Ludlow of Stokesay, and her son William de Ludlow. Who was this Agneta? and why were she and her

¹ | A. 2 and 3. |



[illegible]

son parties to the bond? Laurence de Ludlow had acquired Stokesay c. 1281 from John de Grey, and was the builder of what is, perhaps, the best extant example of a fortified manor-house, now known as Stokesay Castle, close to Craven Arms Station in Shropshire; he had obtained a licence to crenellate it in 1290-1, and died in 1296. His wife, Agnes, is mentioned by Eyton as complainant, together with her son William, in a fine concerning some land at Stanton-Lacy, but of what family she was does not appear. Their son, William de Ludlow, who died in 1316, married c. 1300, Matilda, daughter and sole heiress of William de Hodnet.¹ I can find no connection between the Ludlows and the le Stranges, such as would explain the association of the two families in this bond, and can only surmise that it lay in the personality of Agnes; may she, for instance, have been a sister of John and Hamon le Strange, who, because she was not an heiress, has not been otherwise mentioned? Apart from possible family connection, neighbourship may account for her intervention, as the castle of the Whitchurch le Stranges is only a few miles from Stokesay, higher up Corvedale.

Such being the position of affairs between the two brothers, Hamon, on December 8, 1309, entered into the subjoined covenant:

Universis ad quos presentes litere pervenerint Hamundus Lestraunge, filius domini Johannis Lestraunge de Knokyn salutem in Domino. Noverit universitas vestra me, ex mera voluntate mea concessisse domino Johanni Lestraunge fratri meo et Isolde uxori sue quod, si contingat ipsos me dominum Hamundum de manerio de Hunstanston cum suis pertinentiis in Comitatu Northfolchiensi mihi et heredibus meis de corpore meo legitime procreatis citra quindenam post festum Purificationis beate Virginis Marie proximo futuro feoffare, et securitatem inde facere quam Curia Domini Regis in forma supradicta considerare voluerit, Volo et concedo pro me, heredibus et executoribus meis quod Statutum domini Regis mille marcarum sub sigillo de recognitione debitorum mercatorum, in quo statuto continetur quod dominus Johannes le Straunge, pater meus, se obligavit mihi, heredibus et executoribus meis in predictis mille marcis, et quod quidem Statutum in custodia fratris Henrici, Prioris de Wenlok, remanet. Et etiam quoddam aliud statutum sub dicto sigillo de recognitione debitorum mercatorum in quo continetur quod dictus dominus Johannes le Straunge, frater meus, Agneta que fuit uxor Laurentii de Lodelawe, et Willelmus de Lodelawe, filius eiusdem Agnete, in mille libras argenti mihi heredibus et executoribus meis obligantur.

¹ Eyton, v. 36, 37; vii. 58.

Et quod quidem Statutum in custodia domini Johannis Lestraunge de Erkalewe remanet, vel ubicunque predicta Statuta alibi invenientur pro nullis habeantur, seu nullam vim vel effectum extunc optineant, set omnino cassentur frustrentur et adnullentur, non-obstantibus quibuscunque conventionibus literis seu instrumentis quoquo modo inter me dominum Hamundum et predictum dominum Johannem, fratrem meum, super premissis vel eorum aliquibus penes aliquo modo confectis. Et si contingat predictos dominum Johannem fratrem meum et Isoldam uxorem eius, me dictum Hamundum in forma supradicta de dicto manerio de Hunstanston cum suis pertinentiis citra predictam quindenam dicti festi Purificationis non feoffarent, volunt et concedunt predicti Johannes et Isolda quod supradicta Statuta de recognitionibus mercatorum extunc in suo robore et effectu perseverent, et predictis Hamundo liberentur sine contradictione vel impedimento dictorum domini Johannis et Isolde uxoris sue, Agnete et Willelmi. In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti scripto indentato, tam ego dictus Hamundus ad unam partem, quam dictus dominus Johannes et Isolda uxor eius ad aliam partem, sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus, dominis Johanne de Sibeton, ffulcone Extraneo, Johanne le Straunge de Erkalewe, Reginaldo de Charmes, Willelmo Hord, Griffino de Kynenerstone, et aliis. Datum apud le Knokyn die lune in festo Conceptionis beate Marie. Anno regni regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi tertio.¹

[The seals are gone.]

It will be seen from the above document that, if Hamon was not enfeoffed of Hunstanton by February 16, 1310, the penalties of the two bonds were recoverable by him. The matter was not carried through by that date; it was not completed until May 10 following, but it is not likely that any penalty was exacted for the law's delay.

The 'Final Concord,' by which the manor of Hunstanton was actually conveyed by John (VI) of Knockin to his younger brother Hamon in fee tail for a rose rent, is expressed as follows:

Hec est finalis concordia facta in Curia domini Regis apud Westmonasterium a die Pasche in tres septimanas anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi tertio, Coram Willelmo de Bereford, Lamberto de Trikingham, Henrico de Stanton, Johanne de Benstede, et Henrico le Scrop, Justiciariis et aliis domini Regis fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus. Inter Hamonem Extraneum querentem et Johannem Extraneum de Knokyn et Isoldam uxorem eius deforciatorem, de manerio de Hunstanston cum pertinentiis, unde placitum conuentionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem curia, scilicet quod predictus Hamo recognovit predictum manerium cum pertinentiis esse Jus ipsius Johannis; Et pro hac recognitione,

¹ [A. 4.]

fine, et concordia iidem Johannes et Isolda concesserunt predicto Hamoni predictum manerium cum pertinentiis; Et illud ei reddiderunt in eadem Curia; Habendum et Tenendum eidem Hamoni et heredibus de corpore suo procreatis, de predictis Johanne et Isolda et heredibus ipsius Johannis in perpetuum. Reddendo inde per annum unam rosam ad festum Natiuitatis sancti Johannis Baptiste, pro omni seruicio, consuetudine, et exactione ad predictos Johannem et Isoldam et heredes ipsius Johannis pertinente; Et faciendo inde Capitalibus domini feodi illius pro predictis Johanne et Isolda et heredibus ipsius Johannis omnia alia seruicia que ad illum manerium pertinent. Et predicti Johannes et Isolda et heredes ipsius Johannes Warantizant eidem Hamoni et heredibus suis predictis predictum manerium cum pertinentiis per predicta seruicia sicut predictum est contra omnes homines in perpetuum. Et si contingat quod predictus Hamo obierit sine herede de corpore suo procreato, tunc post decessum ipsius Hamonis predictum manerium cum pertinentiis integre reuertetur ad predictos Johannem et Isoldam quiete de aliis heredibus ipsius Hamonis Tenendum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per seruicia que ad illud manerium pertinent in perpetuum.¹

A second copy of this Fine exists among the muniments at Hunstanton,² and the original is preserved among the Feet of Fines in the Public Record Office.³ Thus was the Hunstanton estate finally made over by the lord of Knockin to his younger brother Hamon, in whose issue it has been vested, and the family name carried on in lineal descent to our day, long after the elder line and other branches in Shropshire had died out, or merged with their honours in other noble families.

Of other matters in which John le Strange (VI) took part during the few months for which he held the barony of Knockin but little mention has come down to us. Eyton points out⁴ that, in the transaction with his brother Hamon respecting Hunstanton, John made use of the instrumentality or trusteeship of his brother to effect an entail of Knockin on the heirs of himself and his wife Isolda, and this will account for the finding of the inquest on his death that he and Isolda had acquired that manor from Hamon. The same arrangement was also made with regard to Molverley, part of le Strange's feoffment under fitz Alan.⁵

Immediately after his father's death John le Strange (VI) was summoned, by writ dated at York on October 26, 1309, to attend

¹ [A. 5.]

⁴ x. 370.

² [A. 6.]

⁵ *Ibid.* x. 378.

³ Case 162, File 125, No. 136.

the Parliament to be held there on February 8 following.¹ The place of meeting was altered by another writ of December 12 to Westminster, in consequence of the refusal of the barons to meet the King and his favourite, Gaveston, at York. In the autumn of 1310 Edward invaded Scotland, and John le Strange was one of the barons summoned to the muster at Berwick on September 8.² The King had difficulties in getting the barons to come, and another writ was directed to le Strange on August 2, earnestly requesting him to attend the said muster according to the preceding summons. The Parliamentary writs show that, in place of going in person to the muster at Tweedmouth on September 18, he proffered the service of half a knight's fee, performed by one *serviens* with one barded horse.

In the autumn of 1310, instead of fighting for the King in Scotland, John le Strange was at Haughmond; on September 3 he confirmed to that abbey the grants of his progenitors, especially the churches of Hunstanton, Cheswardine, Knockin, and many lands; this was witnessed by Fulk le Strange of Blackmere, and by the grantor's brother Hamon.³ On October 10, by another charter also dated at Haughmond, in which he styles himself '*Johannes Extraneus sextus dominus de Knokyn*,' he again confirmed all grants of his ancestors to the abbey, '*sicut pater meus ante me fecit*,' and especially mentioned the new chapel at Knockin, together with the soil on which it was built.⁴

John le Strange (VI) must have died early in 1311, probably during the month of January; the writ of '*Diem clausit extremum*' upon his death is tested at Berwick-upon-Tweed, February 6, 1311; the Cambridgeshire inquisition respecting his property was held on February 21, and a full extent is given of the manor of Middleton held by him of the Bishop of Ely in chief, by the service of three knights' fees, and a pair of gilt spurs, or sixpence, yearly. The Shropshire inquisition was held on March 1, and also gives extents of the manors that belonged to him; Ness and Kynton were held by him in chief, by the service of one knight's fee, and eighteen

¹ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1470.

² Writ tested at Westminster, June 18, 1310.

³ *Fragm. Registri Monast. de Haghmond*, B.M. Harl. MSS. 446 (Aug.) fo. 15.

⁴ *Ibid.*

acres of land were held of Meurik de la Benet, lord of Felton Botiler, rendering 3s. yearly. The manor of Knockin, with its members, including a castle, was held jointly by the said John, with Yseult his wife, of Thomas de Halgton, by homage only, which manor they acquired from Hamon le Strange¹ to be held to them and the heirs of their bodies. Melverly, part of the original le Strange fief under fitz Alan, and eventually part of the fee of Knockin, was held under a separate tenure, namely, of the Earl of Arundel, at an annual rent of 10s. ; and Middle was held at a similar rent of 6s. 8d. of the heirs of John de Burgton. John's heir was found to be his son John, aged fourteen on October 9, 1310.² In addition to the above he held in Warwickshire the manor of Walton Deyville, and in Gloucestershire a messuage, three virgates of land, and five acres of meadow at Schevyndon.³

The escheator beyond Trent was ordered, on March 30, 1311, to deliver to Isolda, late the wife of John le Strange of Knockin, a tenant-in-chief, the manor of Knockin, and the town of Milverleghe, co. Salop, together with the issues of the same, taken into the King's hands on the death of the said John, as it appears by inquisition that he and Isolda acquired the same jointly from Hamon Lestraunge, and that the manor is held of Thomas de Halgton by homage, and the said town from Edmund Earl of Arundel by service of 10s. yearly, and that the said John and Isolda held the same jointly at the time of John's death. Two days later, namely, on April 1, 1311, the same escheator was further directed to assign to Isolda dower of her late husband's lands in the presence of John of Knockin, to whom the King had granted the custody of two parts of the said John Lestraunge's lands during the minority of his heir, if the said John de Knockin choose to attend, the said Isolda having taken oath before the King not to marry again without his licence.⁴ This John de Knockin had already, on February 24, obtained a grant, in which he is styled the King's yeoman, of the wardship of the lands late of John le Strange, in the King's hands by reason of the minority of the heir, to hold until the full age of the latter, rendering so much as any other

¹ *Vide supra*, p. 263.

² Inq. P.M. 3 Edw. II, File 20 ; C.I.P.M. V, No. 264.

³ Cal. Inq. p.m. (1806), i. 237b.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1307-1313, p. 305.

will give, with the marriage of the heir for such a price as any other will give.¹ The Fine Rolls contain a further entry, dated November 2, 1311, of a sale for £300 to the King's yeoman *Roger* [sic] de Knockin of the wardship of two parts of the manors of Ness and Kynton, Salop, and Middleton, co. Cambridge, late of John Lestraunge of Knockin, extended at £39 13s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. a year, to hold until the full age of the latter's heir, John, and if John die before his full age, his heir being a minor, until the time when he would have been of full age, saving, &c., as above, viz. knights' fees, advowsons, reliefs, &c.² An order was issued, on January 23, 1312, to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer to cause enrolment to be made, pursuant to the King's grant to his yeoman, Roger de Knockin, that of the 250 marks wherein he is held to the King of the 450 marks wherein he made fine for the wardship of the lands late of John le Strange of Knockin, then in the King's hands, he pay £10 a year.³ These entries in the Fine Rolls respecting *Roger* de Knockin must be a mistake for *John* de Knockin. Eyton mentions no such person as Roger: John de Knockin was lord of Faintree, near Bridgnorth, in March 1316;⁴ he had a grant of Ellesmere for life from the Crown on the death of Roger le Strange in 1311,⁵ and he himself died in 1320-1.⁶ Similar entries concerning these transactions are entered in the Patent Rolls of August 8 and November 2, 1311,⁷ and a further entry of January 19, 1313, shows that *Roger* de Knockin, the King's yeoman, received a pardon for the 235 marks in which he was bound to the King at the Exchequer, for the custody of the lands of John Lestrange, deceased, which the King committed to him.⁸ These lands, as is shown above, had been granted to John, and not to *Roger* de Knockin.

Sir Hamon le Strange of Hunstanton was already a knight at the time of the tournament held at Stepney in May 1309.⁹ His wife was Margaret Vernon, who in the pedigree in the Hunstanton Muniment Room, made by Roger l'Estrange of Hoe in 1686, is

¹ *C.F.R.*, 1307-1319, ii. p. 85.

⁴ *Nomina Villarum*.

⁶ *C.I.P.M.*, 14 Edw. II, No. 31.

⁸ *Ibid.* p. 520.

² *Ibid.* p. 110.

⁵ *Pat. Rolls*, 12 Edw. II, pars. 2, mem. 9, dors.

⁷ *C.P.R.*, 1307-1313, pp. 380, 397.

⁹ *Supra*, p. 220.

³ *Ibid.* p. 123.

stated to be the daughter and co-heiress of Richard Vernon de Molton, descended from the ancient Lords Vernon of Shipbrooke, in Cheshire. Edmondson¹ makes her the daughter, but not the heiress, of Sir Ralph, or, according to others, Sir Robert Vernon of Mottram, in Cheshire, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir Urian de St. Pierre. The le Stranges, as a family, sided with the Earl of Lancaster and the Ordainers in the agitation which resulted, in 1312, in the death of Gaveston; Sir Hamon was one of those who obtained a special pardon, on October 16, 1313, for having borne arms as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster, 'or in any other manner touching or concerning Peter de Gavaston, or that which befell him.'²

The Feudal Aid for 1316, dealing with the Hundred of Smithdon, states that it was in the hands of Robert de Montalt, and that Hunstanton was held under him by Hamon le Strange and William Lovel.³ Sir Hamon was also certified, pursuant to a writ tested at Clipston on March 5, 1316, as one of the lords of the township of Hunstanton.⁴ The other lord thereof, William Lovel, held a knight's fee in Hunstanton, Walpole, and Walton, pertaining to the castle and honour of Clare.⁵ This return of the names of lords of townships was ordered for the purpose of effecting the military levies ordained by the Parliament at Lincoln in 1316.

At the request of Roger de Mortimer, of Chirk, a grant was made on November 27, 1313, to John de Mortimer (probably his grandson), of that which pertains to the King of the marriage of Isolda, late the wife of John le Strange of Knockin; viz. any fine to be made for that marriage, or forfeiture incurred by her for marrying without the King's licence, or that of the said John de Mortimer.⁶ There is nothing to show that Isolda ever remarried after the death of her husband. During the year 1314 she was involved in some legal controversy arising out of her husband's will; on May 7 Nicholas Daumary, executor of that will, appointed attorneys to receive in Chancery the 300 marks that Thomas, son of John Hastang, and John, son of Robert de

¹ *Baronagium Genealogicum*, v. 493.

² *C.P.R.*, 1313-1317, p. 23.

³ *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, iii. 452.

⁴ *Parl. Writs* (Roll Series), ii. 308, No. 4.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, Edw. II, v. 346, No. 538.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1313-1317, p. 44.

Felton, had acknowledged to him in Chancery in 1309-10;¹ and on November 18 Hastang and Felton appointed attorneys 'against Nicholas Daumary and other executors of the will of John le Strange, to wit, Isolda, late the wife of John le Strange, and William de Lodelowe, in a plea of deceit.'² William de Ludlow has already been mentioned³ in association with John le Strange in the bond for £1000 given to his brother Hamon; and Thomas de Hastang, who occurs shortly after this time as lord of Middle, is conjectured by Eyton to have married a le Strange widow.⁴

Isolda's name occurs on August 8, 1316, as being required to furnish a jury from her lands to determine a complaint as to the forest of Ellesmere.⁵ Shortly after this Margaret, the widow of Sir Hamon le Strange of Hunstanton, purchased from her sister-in-law Isolda, for the sum of £510, the wardship and marriage of Hamon, son and heir of Sir Hamon. The original deed for this purpose, written in Norman-French, exists in the Muniment Room at Hunstanton Hall;⁶ it recites that whereas Margaret, late the wife of Sir Hamon le Strange, lord of Hunstanestown, has acknowledged in Chancery that she owes Isoude, late the wife of Sir John le Strange of Knockin, the sum of £510, in order to have the grant from Isoude of wardship of the lands of Hamon, a minor, and, if the said heir die whilst a minor during Isoude's life without issue, for the wardship of the said lands until Edmund his brother come of age, saving to Isoude the reversion of the tenements that Margaret holds in dower, in case she die during the minority of the heirs, as security for payment to Isoude of £30 yearly until the end of seventeen years, the period of nonage of the heirs, for the wardship. Isoude grants that if Hamon die leaving issue of his body, wardship of which issue Isoude has reserved to herself, or if he die under age without issue after Isoude's death, by reason whereof Margaret may not have the wardship of the said lands until the end of the seventeen years, then Margaret shall pay the above yearly sum until Hamon's

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1313-1318, p. 100.

² *Ibid.* p. 201. ³ *Supra*, p. 258.

⁴ Eyton, x. 68. ⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1313-1317, p. 558.

⁶ [A. 7.]

death, and that after his death she shall be acquitted thereof, and that if Edmund die a minor and heir of Hamon, she shall be quit in like manner. The deed was dated at London on December 2, 1317, and bears a memorandum that Isoude came into Chancery on the same day, and acknowledged the above deed. The Close Rolls of November 28, 1317, contain an enrolment of this deed¹ and an acknowledgment by Isolda's attorney that it was cancelled on payment of the £510 to him in October 1320.

There is no inquisition in the Record Office on the death of Sir Hamon of Hunstanton, but the above-cited enrolment in the Close Rolls proves that he died before the end of November 1317. His sister-in-law Isolda survived certainly until 1324, as is shown by writs directed to her as Lady of Knockin, but the necessities of the war with Scotland rendered it desirable that the command of the castle should not be vested in a woman. A mandate of January 16, 1322, directed to all in the castle of Knockin, orders them to deliver it to Peter Giffard and Morgan Llwyd,² and, four days later, Richard de Leghton was appointed by the King during pleasure as 'Superior Keeper' thereof, a writ of aid for him being directed to 'Isolda de Knokyn, lady of that castle.'³ She, or her bailiff, was required on February 14 to raise 50 foot-soldiers from her lordship of Knockin, and to allow certain commissioners to act therein;⁴ and she was again required, on April 9, 1322, to raise fifty footmen to go to Newcastle-on-Tyne.⁵ A mandate of June 10 requests all persons of the land of Knockin to come properly armed to the King's assistance in the Scotch expedition, as their laudable assistance when the King was pursuing the rebels in the marches of Wales makes the King confident that they will be ready to do so.⁶ The last writ directed to Isolda was dated May 20, 1324, requiring her to furnish from her liberty a jury to try the case of Griffith de la Pole of Powys.⁷

The rolls of the period contain several entries relating to maritime matters at Hunstanton. A commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued on November 1, 1317, on complaint by

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1313-1318, p. 582.

³ *Ibid.* p. 50.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 452.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 74.

² *C.P.R.*, 1321-1324, p. 49.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 98.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 136.

Robert de Montalt, touching persons who, on the sea-coast at Hunstanton, took and carried away his goods out of a ship, which he by his men had taken from the King's Scotch enemies.¹ The Sheriff of Norfolk was directed on January 4, 1318, to take into the King's hands a ship of Flanders and Zeeland lately arrested, as it is contained in an inquisition, taken by the King's orders, by Henry Burgeys of Hunstanton and others, that a great part of the goods are in the said Henry's custody, and the mariners detained in prison by him.² The same Sheriff was directed, on January 26, to bring personally to Westminster the merchants and mariners of Flanders and elsewhere, lately arrested in a ship of Sirice [= *Zieriksee in Zeeland*] on their voyage from Scotland at Hunstanton, and to ascertain what goods were in the ship, their value, into whose hands they came, and if any have been abstracted.³ A commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued on October 2, 1318, on the complaint that Roger, son of Nicholas de Holme, several men from Holme and Hunstanton, Geoffrey 'the *levediesneve* Lestraunge,' and others, assaulted him at Hunstanton, and broke his right arm.⁴ A similar commission was issued on December 26, 1318, on the complaint of Robert de Montalt, that, although he and his ancestors, from time whereof memory exists not, had wreck of sea in all his lands along the sea-coast of Norfolk, William de Sedgeford and others took and carried away divers goods at Wiggennhull, Snettisham, Heacham, Hunstanton, Thornham, and Titchwell, cast ashore by the sea upon his soil, which, as wreck of the sea, ought to have pertained to him.⁵ On April 20, 1322, protection for one year was granted to Robert Spark of Hunstanton, merchant, and his men, going with a ship to southern parts to buy corn and victuals and convey the same to York and Newcastle—not elsewhere—undertaking not to communicate with Scots or Flemings.⁶ A commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued on May 18, 1322, on the complaint of Nicholas de Hamburgh, merchant, of Almain, that, whereas he freighted 'la Welyfare del Brele' [*Brill, in Holland*] with divers

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1317-1321, p. 91.

² *Ibid.* p. 521.

³ *Ibid.* p. 297.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1313-1318, p. 519.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1317-1321, p. 284.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1321-1324, p. 109.

wares at 'Grippeswold in Estland' [= *Greifswald, in Pomerania*] to trade to Kingston-on-Hull, fifty-three or more men (amongst them William Baret of Hunstanton) boarded the ship near Blake-ney, carried away his goods, and assaulted him.¹ Edmund Bacon, John Howard, Robert Banyard, and Robert de Erpingham were appointed, on August 16, 1326, in the ports and towns of Great Yarmouth, Little Yarmouth, Blakeney, Lynn, Spalding, Hunstanton, Holme, and Snettisham to see that they join John de Sturney, admiral of the fleet, in the north.²

EUBULO LE STRANGE.

Concerning Eubulo, ultimately the fourth of his house to be summoned to Parliament as a baron, Professor Tout has called my attention to the question as to whether he was the second or the third son of John le Strange (V) and Maud d'Eiville; after careful examination of such information bearing on the point as exists I have come to the conclusion that he was the youngest of the three brothers, in spite of the fact that Dugdale³ says that Hamon was Eubulo's younger brother, and that Blomefield,⁴ probably following Dugdale, also states that Hamon was the youngest. I have no direct evidence to offer, but the following points are material.

The eldest brother, John (VI), was born, as we have seen, on May 18, 1282; his father, at some period before his death (which occurred on October 7, 1309), made a large endowment for his son Hamon by means of the Statute Merchant Bond for a thousand marks in his favour; the date of this bond is not recorded, but as no mention is therein made of any other son, it seems probable that it may have been made before the birth of Eubulo, whose career suggests that he must have been considerably younger than his brothers. Eubulo was certainly not present at the tournament at Stepney on May 28, 1309, when both John and Hamon were present as knights. Further, Eubulo was not a witness to any of the documents of the family compact concerning the

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1321-1324, p. 159.

² *Baronage*, i. 668.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1324-1327, p. 311.

⁴ *x.* 316.

feoffment of Hamon in Hunstanton, which were executed during that and the following year. His name does not appear, as far as I am aware, before 1313, when 'Eble Lestraunge' is included with his brother Hamon, and his cousins Fulk and Robert of Blackmere, in the pardon, granted on October 16, to the adherents of the Earl of Lancaster for the death of Gaveston.¹ I have seen no further mention of him until May 20, 1322, when he obtained letters of protection for one year,² but the purpose thereof is not stated. In 1326, although apparently not yet a knight, he was returned by the Sheriff of Salop, pursuant to a writ tested at Westminster on May 19, in the list of '*homines ad arma*' summoned to attend the Great Council.³

The *Complete Peerage*,⁴ on the authority of Blore's *Rutland* (p. 228), makes Eubulo the son of a second wife of John, 1st Lord Strange of Knockin, viz. daughter and heiress of Eubulus de Montibus, of Ketton, Co. Rutland, and says that from the name it seems likely; but I know of no other authority for the existence of this second wife.

By his marriage with Alice de Lacy, which must have taken place at about that period, Eubulo acquired large possessions in many parts of England. Alice was the only surviving daughter and heiress of Henry de Lacy, last Earl of Lincoln of his line, and was therefore, in her own right, Countess of Lincoln, while, in that of her mother, she was also Countess of Salisbury; she had been married at the age of eleven, in 1294, to Thomas Earl of Lancaster, son of Edmund 'Crouchback,' and grandson of Henry III, the leader of the barons of England against the favourites of Edward II, who was captured by the King's forces at Boroughbridge, and beheaded at Pomfret Castle in 1322. The personal honour of Alice does not seem to have been above reproach, though a vile story, chronicled by Thomas of Walsingham,⁵ and a contemporary Westminster monk, Robert of Reading,⁶ and quoted by Kennet,⁷ to the effect that Alice de Lacy was claimed as his wife in 1317 by

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1313-1317, p. 23.

² *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1468.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ 1st Edⁿ, vii. p. 268.

⁵ *Chron. Mon. S. Albani*, i. 148.

⁶ *Flores Historiarum* (Rolls Series), iii. p. 179.

⁷ *Parochical Antiquities of Ambroseden and Burcestre*, i. 539.

an undersized hunchback, named Richard de St. Martin, on the ground that he had carried her off and married her before she was betrothed to the Earl of Lancaster, is at all events partly disproved by the fact of the tender age at which she was married to the said Earl. The facts seem to be that in 1317 Alice was 'abducted' by Earl Warenne. Warenne was a man of disreputable character, and it is pretty certain that his chief object in abducting her was to humiliate Thomas of Lancaster.¹ A circumstantial account given by another contemporary chronicler, the 'Continuator of Trivet,' Edw. Hall, pp. 20-21, bears testimony to the fact that Alice did go off with some lover, but I demur to the suggestion made by Professor Tout in his 'Place of Edward II in English History,'² that that lover was 'a certain lame squire, Eubulo l'Estrange.' That Alice should have left an unprincipled ruffian like Lancaster, to whom she had been married when a mere child, is small matter for wonder, and perhaps scarcely for blame, but that Eubulo should be identical with the '*cuidam armigero claudo*,' spoken of by Robert of Reading, is incompatible with his strenuous and honourable career under Edward III, and the many trusts and rewards conferred on him by that monarch. That Alice herself was for a time under a cloud, partly perhaps from her own misconduct, and still more as the widow of the traitor Thomas of Lancaster, is more than likely, and that she had to extricate herself from a weak position by paying hush-money to the Despencers and to those who wielded the powers of the Crown towards the end of the reign of Edward II; but after her marriage with Eubulo it is evident that she did succeed in reinstating herself materially, and, let us hope, morally as well.

After the execution of her first husband at Pomfret his own possessions and honours were forfeited by his attainder, and his widow, to make her peace with the King, surrendered into his hands on June 26, 1322, a great part of the lands which she had inherited from her father, in order to secure the confirmation of some portion of these possessions to herself. Many of the surrendered lands were granted by Edward II to the Despencers,

¹ *Chron. de Melsa*, ii. 334-5; *Canon of Bridlington*, p. 54; *Annales Paulini*, p. 280.

² P. 110.

and on their forfeiture subsequently reverted to the King.¹ On September 20, 1322, Edward granted the constableness of Lincoln Castle to Alice as her right and inheritance,² and restored to her for life the annuity of £20 which her father had received in lieu of the third penny of the county of Lincoln.

The marriage with Eubulo le Strange took place before November 10, 1324, on which day the Sheriff of Lincoln was ordered to pay to him and 'Alice, daughter and heiress of Henry de Lacy, late Earl of Lincoln, *now his wife*, the arrears of £20 yearly for the third part of the county of Lincoln, and to pay the same hereafter.'³ It may have taken place as early as the previous Easter, as certain issues of Lincoln were paid to Alice and Eubulo for Easter term 18th Edward II.⁴ The mandamus as to the annuity in lieu of the third penny of the county of Lincoln has given colour to some to call Eubulo Earl of Lincoln *jure uxoris*, but, as has been pointed out by Mr. Francis Townsend, in his additions to Dugdale's *Baronage*, it is certain that he never really enjoyed that honour, as we find him regularly summoned to Parliament up to the date of his death by the name of Ebulo le Strange only, and ranked among the barons, nor does the inquisition on his death give him any other title.⁵ The date of the writ for his first summons to Parliament was December 3, 1326,⁶ the last was on April 1, 1335, and there is proof in the Rolls of Parliament of his sitting.⁷ He was, apparently, not knighted until about a year after his marriage, viz. in the 19th of Edward II (1325-26), when he was made a Knight of the Bath and received robes as a Banneret.⁸

By a commission tested at Norwich on January 24, 1326, Eubulo was appointed one of the four supervisors of Array in the county of Lincoln, with special powers;⁹ and by a further commission he was directed, on July 23, to assist and counsel the Earl of Arundel as captain and chief supervisor of the Array in Lincolnshire.¹⁰ The last mention of him during the reign of

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1324-1327, pp. 63, 103.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1223-1227, p. 245.

³ *Misc. Top. et Gen.*, vi. 150-1.

⁴ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 268.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1324-1327, p. 220.

⁶ *C. Cl. R.*, 1327-1330, p. 28.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 626.

⁸ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1468.

⁹ *Ibid.* vii. 268.

¹⁰ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1468.

Edward II is on December 9, 1326, when he obtained letters of protection for a year.¹

Eubulo and Alice appear to have experienced considerable difficulties in securing punctual payment of the rents which had been granted to them out of the castle and county of Lincoln ; there are repeated orders in the Close Rolls of the next few years directing the Sheriff to pay to them the arrears, and to continue the payments punctually.² An entry of August 4, 1331, recites that, whereas the mayor and bailiffs of the city of Lincoln have hindered Eubulo and Alice since the death of Henry de Lacy from holding the custody of the castle, with the bailey and court thereof, the King orders the mayor and bailiffs to permit Eubulo and Alice to have the said castle and bailey, the meter and bounds whereof are fully set forth.³

A few months after the deposition of Edward II, Eubulo was summoned to be at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on May 18, 1327, *equis et armis*, in case of an invasion by Robert Bruce.⁴ The young King, in pursuing the Scots, narrowly escaped capture on August 4, 1327.

During the early years of the new reign all real power was in the hands of Queen Isabella and her paramour Mortimer, who, to consolidate their authority, made restitution of estates and honours to the partisans of the late Earl of Lancaster. Among these grants was one made to Eubulo le Strange for life, on November 28, 1328, of lands and rent of the yearly value of 500 marks, out of the lands which he and Alice his wife hold for the term of her life only, and which would revert to the Crown at her death ; he received, accordingly, a grant of the manors of Colham and Edgware, co. Middlesex, and others in Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, and Northampton, with those of Glasebury and Clifford in Wales. A memorandum is attached stating that Eubulo, in presence of the council, agreed to surrender the foregoing letters patent into Chancery, for cancellation, if the prelates and

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1324-1327, p. 340.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1323-1327, p. 462 ; *ibid.* 1327-1330, pp. 28, 142, 169, 283, 434, &c. ; *ibid.* 1330-1333, p. 1.

³ *Ibid.* p. 255.

⁴ *Rot. Claus.*, 1 Edw. III, pt. i., m. 2, dors.

magnates of the realm did not consent to the premises.¹ At an inquisition held shortly before this, viz. on August 27, 1328, the jury found that twenty-four solidates and nine denarates of rent in Cowlinge, Suffolk, of the inheritance of Alice, were taken into the hands of King Edward II after the death of Thomas, her husband, and had not been restored to her.²

Eubulo and Alice were summoned on November 6, 1329, to show why they claimed frankpledge and other liberties in her manor of Wadenhoe, Northants. Alice said that she held them of immemorial user, and her claim was allowed, except that of wreck, which was struck out on the ground that a manor in Northamptonshire was too far from the sea for wrecks to be cast up thereon.³

Eyton shows⁴ that on February 16, 1330, Edward III gave the manor of Overton, Flintshire, the land of Maelor Saesneg, the manor of Grauncestre, and the manor and castle of Ellesmere, with its hamlets, to Eubulo and his wife. Alice, during her widowhood, had given several of her castles and manors to Edward II and the two Despencers, all of which had now devolved on Edward III by inheritance or forfeiture; Eubulo and Alice had quitclaimed the above castles, &c., to the young King, who now gave Ellesmere and the other lands to them and *the heirs of Alice*, to hold by the service of two knights' fees.⁵ Eyton points out that certain other manors, which had been given by Edward II to Alice for her life only, were now settled by Edward III on her and her husband, and her husband's heirs, but he is unable to solve the difficulty, viz., that (as we shall see) Ellesmere eventually went to the heirs of Eubulo, and not to those of Alice.

Eubulo le Strange was one of the barons who contributed to the overthrow of Mortimer and Queen Isabella in 1330, and enabled Edward III to take the reins of government into his own hands. He rewarded the services of Eubulo and Alice by a grant, made to them on February 16, 1331, of the manors of

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1327-1330, p. 338.

² Misc. Chanc. Inq. Edw. III, File 108 (2nd number), No. 101.

³ *Plac. de Quo Warr.*, Edw. I, II, and III, 518a.

⁵ Rot. Chart. 5 Edw. III, No. 83.

⁴ x. 245-246.

Colham and Edgware, Middlesex, the manor of Holborn in London, and other lands in Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire, as also the castles of Clifford and Glasbury in Wales.¹ The manor of Edgware descended to the le Stranges of Knockin, and was subsequently alienated by Richard Lord Strange in 1423, and came into the possession of Chichele; hence the original grant found its way into the Muniment Room of All Souls' College, Oxford, where it is still preserved. Richard's charter has appended to it a good impression of his seal of arms—viz. gules, two lions passant, argent; above the shield is a helm with a lion statant as crest, and on either side the legend: 'S. ric : lefstrange dni : de : Knokyn.' The grant to Eubulo is enrolled in the Charter Rolls, and recites that it is made in consideration of the good service rendered and to be rendered by him, and of the quit-claim made by him and Alice his wife of all her right in the lands which the King holds of her inheritance; and, further, that it is made with the consent of the prelates, earls, barons, and chief men in the King's last Parliament at Westminster.² It was also expressly stated that the lands granted were to be held by Eubulo and Alice, and *the heirs of Eubulo*; which provision explains Eyton's difficulty as to why Ellesmere went to the heirs of Eubulo and not to those of his wife.

A separate grant was made on the same day, also with the assent of Parliament, to Eubulo and Alice, in return for a release to the King and his heirs, of the right of the said Alice in the castles, towns, manors, and lands which before her marriage she surrendered to the late King and the Despencers, and which escheated to the King by the forfeiture of the latter, of the castle and cantred of Builth in Wales, and also of the manor of Bisham, co. Berks, with all their appurtenances, to hold for the life of Alice.³

A few weeks before, viz. on December 21, 1330, a writ of aid had been issued for Eubulo le Strange, and William and Edward de Bohun, sent to bring Queen Isabella from Berkhamsted to

¹ *Cat. of Archives of All Soul's Coll., Oxon*, p. 34.

² *C. Ch. R.*, 1-14 *Edw. III*, vol. iv., p. 213, memb. 31.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1330-1334, p. 74.

spend Christmas at Windsor.¹ This shows that, although her movements were controlled by her son, Isabella was not kept a prisoner as foreign chroniclers relate.

The Constable of Bristol Castle was ordered, on July 5, 1331, to deliver from prison there Hugh le Despencer, as Eubulo le Strange and ten others had mainperned before the King for his appearance in fifteen days before the King and Council to stand to right.² This was the son and grandson respectively of the two Hugh Despenchers, executed in 1326, whose honours had been forfeited on their attainder; he was restored to favour, and subsequently summoned to Parliament as a baron in 1338.

A certain amount of insubordination, which survived as a legacy of the last reign, was strongly suppressed by the young King. In Lincolnshire Eubulo le Strange's name appears as the first of eight others, who were appointed with him on March 21, 1332, as keepers of the county, to arrest disturbers of the peace;³ and on the same day another patent repeats the appointment to put a stop to the lawlessness now prevalent.⁴ Further evidence of these disturbances appears in a patent of July 22 following, whereby, in consequence of cross complaints of trespass made by the abbot of Crowland and Thomas Wake against each other, and of the existence of assemblies of armed men in the parts of Holland on account of dissensions maintained by the abbot, directions were given that the prior of Spalding, Eubulo le Strange, and Thomas Wake should make inquisition touching such unlawful assembly.⁵

The year 1332 saw the renewal of the attempt to bring Scotland under feudal subjection to England, but the enterprise met with no permanent success. On July 24 the Sheriff of Lincoln was ordered to cause archers to be chosen to help the King in his approaching expedition to *Ireland*, and, for this purpose, Eubulo le Strange was required to find eighty archers.⁶ I can find no evidence of any contemplated expedition to Ireland at this time,

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1330-1334, p. 36.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1330-1334, p. 293.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 351.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1337, p. 325.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 348.

⁶ *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 487.

and have little doubt that the real objective was Scotland, which Edward did not care to acknowledge openly, as he was bound by the treaty which had been made for him whilst still under tutelage. Balliol's victory at Dupplin Moor furnished Edward with the argument that, as Scotland had changed her King, previous treaties were no longer binding—'Once more a Balliol was to be a puppet king in the hands of an English overlord.'¹ Balliol was soon driven out of Scotland, but Edward proceeded with his own attempt to reduce the Scots to subjection. For this purpose the King had need of the services of Eubulo le Strange, and he was relieved of his functions as keeper and justice in Lincolnshire, and was directed on November 25, 1332, to send in his rolls and indictments.² By patent of March 4, 1333, Richard de Wylughby was appointed keeper of the county of Lincoln in place of Eubulo, 'who is engaged on business of the King and unable to act.'³ This business was to repel the invasion of the Scots, who had expelled Balliol at Christmas-time, and resumed the offensive by invading England. The feudal levies were called out, and Eubulo was among those summoned to be at Newcastle, *equis et armis*, by Trinity to repel the Scots.⁴ He held a prominent command in this campaign; the abbot of St. Mary's, York, receiver of monies of the tenth and fifteenth, was directed to pay him a hundred marks on March 26;⁵ and the prior of Spalding petitioned, on May 3, to be excused providing a cart and five horses for the King's carriage to Scotland, on the ground that his convent had already given so much aid to Eubulo le Strange, patron of his house, in horses and carriages for Scotland, that they had none for their own use.⁶ Edward marched into Scotland and laid siege to Berwick, which, owing to the fortifications erected by his grandfather, offered a tough resistance; on July 15 an agreement was entered into between Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, and the English King that the town, if not relieved before the 20th, should be surrendered; this agreement was sealed,

¹ *England in the Later Middle Ages*, by Kenneth Vickers, p. 151.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 617.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1330-1334, p. 441.

⁴ *Rot. Claus.*, 7 Edw. III, pt. i., m. 19, dors.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1333-1337, p. 21.

⁶ *C. Doc. Scot.*, 1307-1357, iii. p. 194, No. 1076.

inter alios, by 'Monsieur Ebol L'Estraunge';¹ the Regent, Douglas, had marched to its relief, but was defeated and killed on the 19th at Halidon Hill, a battle in which the English knights and men-at-arms dismounted and fought on foot, while the day was practically decided by the archers on the two wings, before the men-at-arms had struck a blow. William Cole, in his collections made at Cambridge in 1776, says that in this battle 'Sir Eubulo le Strange was one of the principal leaders, under whose banner the lords John Willoughby and John Fauconberg fought valiantly.'² The young King, David II, fled to France, and Edward Balliol was received as King of Scots by a Parliament held at Perth in October.

Eubulo having left Lincoln, the payment of his rent of £20 from the castle thereof had again fallen into arrear, so he procured an order, dated October 10, 1333, directing the Sheriff, as long as he held office, to pay that amount to him and Alice.³ By a patent of March 2, 1334, Eubulo was allowed to nominate attorneys in England until Michaelmas, as he was going beyond seas, but nothing is stated as to the occasion of this journey.⁴ A commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued on September 30 following, on his complaint that, whereas he and other lords of the manor of Friskeneye, Lincolnshire, time out of mind have used wreck of the sea therein, certain persons have carried away a whale, worth £100, cast ashore by the sea within that manor.⁵ Even allowing for the value of sperm oil for lighting purposes in those days, it is difficult to believe that any whale could have been worth a sum equivalent to £1000 to £1200 of our money to-day. Eubulo was rewarded on September 25, 1334, by a grant, in consideration of his charges, risks, and labours in the King's service, that, if he survive his wife Alice, he shall retain for his life the castle and cantred of Builth, in Wales, with its appurtenances, in enlargement of the late grant by letters patent of these and the manor of Bisham, co. Berks, to them for the life of Alice.⁶ This grant was further enlarged on April 4, 1335, by another patent which pro-

¹ Rot. Scot., 7 Edw. III, m. 14.

³ C. Cl. R., 1333-1337, p. 140.

⁵ Ibid. 1334-1338, p. 64.

² B.M. Add. MSS. 5849, p. 461.

⁴ C.P.R., 1330-1334, p. 512.

⁶ Ibid. p. 34.

vided that, if he survived his wife Alice, he should retain the manor of Bisham for his life.¹ The Patent Rolls of July 14, 1335, contain a notification that, in Easter term last, by judgment of the justices of York, Eubulo and Alice recovered against the sub-prior and convent of Spalding the presentation to the church of Gate Burton, as pertaining to them by reason of the priory being void and in their hands.²

Edward again invaded Scotland in 1335, but never got into touch with the Scots, who retired before his advance, and refused to meet him in the open field. On March 27 a requisition was sent to Wales for 2000 footmen and 20 men-at-arms to be selected, for the defence of the kingdom in the marches of England and Scotland, from the King's lands in Wales, and from the domains 'dilecti et fidelis nostri Ebulonis le Strange de Buelt in Suth Wall'. Eubulo himself was enjoined to help in their selection, and to join the King at Newcastle, with horses and arms, for the expedition against the Scots.³ Special orders were sent two months later that the 2000 footmen were all to be Welshmen, unmixed with Englishmen living in Wales,⁴ and Eubulo, lord of Builth, was among the English magnates, holding lands in Wales, to whom directions were sent that they were to guard the seaports and coasts, and to resist the Scots manfully if they made incursion into Wales.⁵

The above were the last mandates directed to Eubulo, who took part in the invasion of Scotland and lost his life there, but whether by accident, disease, or in some nameless skirmish does not appear. Writs of '*diem clausit extremum*' were issued on September 17, 1335, to the Sheriffs of the various counties in which, in his own right or that of his wife, he held land, and the jurors stated that, as they believe, he died '*in partibus Scotie*' on September 8, 1335, and that his nephew, Roger le Strange of Knockin, aged forty years and more, was his heir. The respective inquisitions show the extent of his possessions to have been as follows : ⁶

¹ C.P.R., 1330-1334, p. 85.

² *Ibid.* p. 155.

³ *Rot. Scot.*, i. 330-332.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 348a.

⁵ *Ibid.* i. 366a.

⁶ P.R.O. Chancery Inq. Edw. III, File 43, No. 42.

A capital messuage in Holborn, in the suburbs of London, formerly belonging to Henry de Lacy ¹	}	Middlesex.
The manor of Colham, with the hamlet of Uxbridge, as of the Honour of Wallingford		
The manor of Edgeware, with hamlet of Kingsbury		
Colston Bassett		Notts'.
The manor of Kingston Lacy, and the borough of Blandford	}	Dorset.
The castle and cantred of Builth		Brecon.
The manor of Bisham	}	Berks'.
Land and tenements in Avington		
Rents in Newbury		
The manor of Great Amesbury	}	Wilts'.
A messuage and three carucates of land		
The manor of Burcestre	}	Oxon'.
The manor of Mudelynton		
Lands and tenements in Holmer	}	Bucks'.
Two water-mills in Denham		
Lands and tenements in Westbury and Radclyve, as of the Honour of St. Waleric		
The manor of Wadenhoe		Northampton'.
The manor of Gransete		Cantabr'.
The castle of Clifford	}	Hereford and the Marches.
The manor of Ellesmere, with hamlets of Colmere and Hampton.		
The manor of Saltfleetby, capital messuage and lands	}	Lincoln'.
A moiety of the manor of Scartho, a lordship, and £20 yearly rent		

¹ Professor Tout suggests that this capital messuage, which had belonged to the Earl of Lincoln, may have given the name to Lincoln's Inn.

Lincoln—the custody of the castle and bailiwick, with £20 yearly rent for the penny of the county

The manor of Sedgebrook, as of the Honour of Eye

The manor of Horbling

The manor of Halton

Lands and tenements in Alkborough and Burton-on-Stather

The castle of Bolingbroke

The manor of Badenhoo

} Lincoln'.

The King's escheators in many of the above counties were directed, on October 9, 1335, not to interfere with these castles and manors, taken into the King's hands by reason of Eubulo's death, but to restore them to Alesia, as they had been confirmed to her for her life.¹

The executors of Eubulo's will were the abbot of Barlings, the abbot of Revesby, Henry de Halton, and Alice herself ;² he was buried at Barlings Abbey, near Lincoln,³ and as he left no issue his peerage expired with him.

Alice, with her rich inheritance, was not likely to remain a widow for long, though she was at this time about fifty-two years of age. Early in 1336 she had become the wife of Hugh de Freyne, who had been Constable of Cardigan, Warden of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and Justice of Chester ; the marriage had taken place without the King's licence, so orders were sent to the Sheriffs of Lincoln, Oxford, and many other counties, to take into the King's hands the lands, goods, and chattels of Hugh de Freyne and Alice, Countess of Lincoln, and to keep the same until further order ; the said Hugh and Alice having escaped from the castle of Somerton, where the King had ordered them to be kept separately, because Hugh took her from the castle of Bolingbroke by force.⁴ Apparently the offence was condoned, probably by payment of a fine, as an order was issued on March 20,

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1333-1337, p. 444.

³ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 268.

² *Ibid.* p. 536.

⁴ *C.F.R.*, 1333-1337, p. 554.

1336, to deliver to Alice and Hugh de Freyne a messuage at Newbury, Berks,¹ and other manors were restored to her in the following year.² Hugh de Freyne was summoned to Parliament as a baron by writ of November 29, 1336, but died at Perth in the following month, leaving no issue, so his honours became extinct.³ The Countess of Lincoln thus became a widow for the third time, but did not contract any further marriage. The escheator beyond Trent was ordered, on March 1, 1337, not to interfere with certain manors, taken into the King's hand by reason of the death of Hugh de Freyne, who had married Alice, late wife of Eubulo le Strange, but to restore the same with their issues to her.⁴ A licence was given to her on June 20, 1337, to grant to Roger le Strange, of Knockin, a life estate in Ellesmere, Salop, and Overton Madok, Flint ;⁵ and the castle and cantred of Builth, with their issues, were also restored to her on March 12, 1338.⁶ A commission was issued next year to make inquisition touching reported defects in the castle of Builth, now held by Alice, Countess of Lincoln, for life with reversion to the King,⁷ Two commissions of *Oyer and Terminer* were issued in February, 1340, on the complaint of the countess that certain men had carried away two fish called *baleyn*, worth £200, washed ashore in her Lincolnshire manor of Friskeney, and another *baleyn* at Sutton.⁸ The annual payment of £20 to her in lieu of the 3rd penny from the county of Lincoln was constantly in arrear, and fresh orders to the Sheriff to pay it had to be issued in 1341, 1342, and 1345.⁹

Alice de Lacy died at the age of sixty-five, without issue by any of her three husbands, on October 2, 1348, and was buried at Barlings Abbey, near her second husband, Eubulo le Strange. The earldom of Lincoln, which, according to the original grant in 1232, ought to have fallen into abeyance among her own cousins, was diverted in favour of the Royal Family, and given to Henry

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1333-1337, p. 554.

³ *Complete Peerage*, iii. 404.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, 1334-1338, p. 465.

⁷ *C.P.R.*, 1338-1340, p. 284.

⁹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1341-1343, pp. 2, 429, 608 ; *ibid.* 1343-1346, p. 499.

² *Ibid.* 1337-1339, pp. 18 and 19.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1337-1339, p. 25.

⁶ *Pat. Rolls*.

⁸ *Ibid.* pp. 483 and 487.

Plantagenet, brother of her first husband.¹ After her death the King's escheator was directed not to interfere with the manor of Edgeware, as the King had learnt by an inquisition that Alice, Countess of Lincoln, at her death held no lands in chief, but that she and Eubulo, her late husband, held the manor for themselves and Eubulo's heirs, and that Eubulo died during Alice's life, wherefore the reversion of the manor descends to Roger le Strange, as Eubulo's kinsman and heir, and Roger granted by fine that the said manor, which Alice held for life of his inheritance, should remain after her death to Nicholas de Cantelupe, knight, for life, and that Alice surrendered to the said Nicholas the said manor and her estate therein, and the manor is held in chief by service of rendering 4s. yearly, and the King has taken Nicholas's fealty.²

Thus of all the extensive manors which Alice had once possessed in right of her inheritance as Countess of Lincoln and of Salisbury, it seems that she had none to leave to anyone after her death ; for in many of them, which had been forfeited by the attainder of her first husband, the Earl of Lancaster, she had, on their restoration, accepted a life interest for herself ; while others, which she held with her second husband, Eubulo le Strange, had been entailed on his heirs, and went to Roger, Lord Strange of Knockin.

The subjoined curious deed, in Norman-French, shows that she divested herself in her lifetime of all her castles and goods, movable and immovable, as a gift to her cousin, Nicholas de Cantilupe, and, in token of his seisin thereof, had delivered to him with her own hands all her silver plate :³

A toutz ceaux q̃e ceste l̃re verront ou orront Aleise de Lasci countesse de Nicole et de Saresbir' salut en dieux. Sachez nous avoir donez et grauntez a ñre chier Cosyn Monsier Nicholas de Caunteloup toutz notz biens et chateaux, meobles et nounmeobles, q̃cumqes q̃e nous auons en toutz notz chastels et manoir pmy toute Engleterre et Gales le jour de la conneccion de cestes ; Jssint q̃e nous ne notz executors, ne nul dep nous, desore auauant en les chateaux auant ditz claym puis soms metre ; En tesmoignaunce de quele chose et en affermentent de ñre dit doun lui auons liverez p notz mayms meyne tout ñre

¹ *Misc. Top. et Gen.*, viii. 155.

² *C. Cl. R.* 1346-1349, p. 566.

³ B.M. Add. MSS. 6118, p. 535.

vessel dargent en noun de plenere seysine des toutz les biens et chatoux, meobles et noun meobles auant ditz. Sauuant tout ditz les biens et les chateaux q̃e sount a la purpartie de n̄re tres chier Seigneur Monš Oble Lestrangle, q̃e dieux assoille. En tesmoignaunce de quele chose a ceste n̄re p̄nt doun auons mys n̄re seal, p iceaux tesmoignes. Monš Johan de Wylugby. Monš Willem Deyncourt, Mons Adam de Welle, Monš Norman Darcy. Monš Henri de Halton, Monš Wauter de Fauconberge, Monš Robt de Silkeston chivalers et autres. Doñ a Bolingbroke lendemayn de la Natiuite saint John Baptist lan de regne Rei Edward tiertz puis le conquest unzieme. [25 June, 1337.]

LE STRANGE OF LITCHAM.

We have seen ¹ that John le Strange of Litcham died on May 21, 1305, without issue, leaving his brother Ralph as his heir. In March 1304, John and his wife Clementia presented to the rectory of Wellingham, the advowson of which, after John's death, descended to Clementia, who presented in 1311, 1313, and 1315.² The manor of Wellingham was conveyed to John — by Ralph, son of John le Strange of Litcham, in the 2nd of Edward II [1308–9].³ In the 10th of Edward II [1316–17] the same Ralph fined the advowson and mediety of the manor of Little Snoring to Alexander de Walcote and Matilda his wife ; ⁴ and in the following year Alexander and Matilda made fine in Little Snoring to Clementia, widow of John le Strange of Litcham.⁵ The Feudal Aids for 1316 show that the hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhoe were in the hand of Clementia, and that she was one of the lords of the manors of Wellingham and Little Snoring.⁶ Isabella, the mother of Clementia's husband John, was surviving in 1316, as writs of March 5 of that year certify her as holding part of the township of Litcham, and also the township of Bolas, Salop.⁷

JOHN LE STRANGE, CANON OF EXETER AND VICAR OF FROME.

A John le Strange, whom I am unable to connect with any branch of the family, occurs as canon residentiary of Exeter and vicar of Frome at this period. In the will of Thomas de Bitton,

¹ *Supra*, p. 48.

² Carthew's *Launditch*, iii. 434.

³ Rye's *Feet of Fines for Norfolk*, pt. ii., p. 224, No. 110.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 246, No. 539.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 252, No. 661.

⁶ *Feudal Aids*, 1284–1431, iii. pp. 453, 455, 460.

⁷ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1471.

Bishop of Exeter (1310), among payments to be made to divers persons, is mentioned 'to John Straunge and other Canons residing in the church of Exeter, vii dishes [*disci*] of silver, with as many salt-cellars of silver of the value of xli., xjs., jd.; viz. to each of them one dish with a salt-cellar.'¹ He occurs again in the proof of age made by Andrew, son and heir of Nicholas Braunche of Somerset, on June 10, 1333, wherein it is found that the said Andrew was born at Frome, and baptized in the church there by Sir John Straunge, then vicar of the same, anno 5^o Edw. II [1312].² There is a letter addressed to him in Bishop Stapeldon's Register;³ but Strange is a common name. In the same register there is a reference⁴ to Roger Strange, and to Nicholas Strange, canon of St. Crantock.

¹ *Account of the Executors of Thos. de Bitton, Bp. of Exeter*, Camden Soc., 1874, p. 29.

² C.I.P.M., Edw. III, vii. 380, No. 540.

³ Ed. *Hingeston Randolph*, p. 11.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 384.

PEDIGREE NO. VIII.—LE STRANGE OF BLACKMERE.

ROBERT LE STRANGE, = ELEANOR DE WHITCHURCH
(or Blacminster); she
4th son of John (III), had Wrockwardine
from his brother Hamon; went to crusade,
m. secondly Bogo de
but returned; ob. c. Aug. 1276.
Knovill, and ob. c. 1304;
b. at High Ercall.

I.
John le Strange of Whitchurch;
b. 1266; ob.s.p. 1289.

2.
Fulk le S.; = Eleanor, d. and coh. of John Giffard, Robert le S.; entfeoffed by his father
in the manor of Marbury, Cheshire.
inherited Wrockwardine from his brother John,
and Whitchurch from his mother; summoned
to Parliament as Lord Strange of Blackmere
from 1309 to 1314; Seneschal of Aquitaine
April 11, 1322; ob. before February 23, 1324.

I.
John le S.; 2nd Lord S. of Blackmere, = Ankaret, sister and h. of Edward,
b. Jan. 25, 1306; Governor of Conway,
1330; summoned to Parliament, 1330
to 1343; served in Scotch and French
wars; Banneret at Crecy and Calais,
1346; ob.s.p. July 20, 1349.

2.
Fulk le S.; = * * *
had Longnor from his father
in 1322, and Betton; de-
ceased in 1375, s.p.m.

3.
Hamon le S.; = Margaret * * *;
had Cheswardine in 1315
from John, son of Roger
le S.; inherited Betton
from his bro. Fulk.

3.
Elizabeth le S.; = Robert Corbet
of Moreton
Corbet, b.
1304. ob.
1375.

Margaret le S. Joan le S. = John Careles Eleanor le S. = Edward de Acton
a Nun, occ. 1375. of Longnor.

a quibus
Corbett of Longnor.

I.

Fulk, 3rd Lord Strange of Blackmere = Elizabeth, d. of Ralph, Lord Stafford; John, 4th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Mary fitzAlan, d. of Richard Earl of Arundel; Hamon le S. Eleanor le S. = Regl. 2nd Ld. Grey
aged 19 at his father's d.; not she m. secondly, before 1360, John b. Jan. 13, 1332; summoned to Parl. 1360; ob. May 12, 1361.
summoned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p., Ld. de Ferrers; and thirdly, Regl. 1360; ob. May 12, 1361.
Sept. 6, 1349.

John, 5th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Isabel Beauchamp, 3th d. of Thos. Ankaret (7th) Baroness Strange of Blackmere; = Richd. Talbot, s. and h. of Gilbert, 3rd Lord Talbot;
aged 6 at his father's d.; not sum- Earl of Warwick; m. secondly, summoned to Parl. 1375.
moned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p.m., Wm. 2nd Earl of Suffolk; ob. succeeded as 4th Lord Talbot in 1387; ob. Sept. 7, 1396.
Aug. 3, 1375.

Elizabeth, (6th) Baroness = Thos. de Mowbray,
Strange of Blackmere; Earl of Notting-
aged 1 year at her ham, afterwards
father's d.; ob.s.p. 23 1st Duke of Nor-
folk; ob. Sept. Aug. 1383. 1400.

I.
Gilbert, = Beatrix Pinto, of Portugal;
aged 13 at d. of his father, whom he succeeded m. secondly;
in 1396 as 5th Ld. Talbot; succeeded his Thos. Fet-
mother in 1413 as 8th Lord Strange of tiplace of
Blackmere; summoned to Parl. 1404-17. East Shef-
K.G. 1407. Ob.s.p.m. Oct. 19, 1419. ford, Berks;
ob. Dec. 25,
1447.

2.

John, 4th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Mary fitzAlan, d. of Richard Earl of Arundel; Hamon le S. Eleanor le S. = Regl. 2nd Ld. Grey
aged 19 at his father's d.; not she m. secondly, before 1360, John b. Jan. 13, 1332; summoned to Parl. 1360; ob. May 12, 1361.
summoned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p., Ld. de Ferrers; and thirdly, Regl. 1360; ob. May 12, 1361.
Sept. 6, 1349.

John, 5th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Isabel Beauchamp, 3th d. of Thos. Ankaret (7th) Baroness Strange of Blackmere; = Richd. Talbot, s. and h. of Gilbert, 3rd Lord Talbot;
aged 6 at his father's d.; not sum- Earl of Warwick; m. secondly, summoned to Parl. 1375.
moned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p.m., Wm. 2nd Earl of Suffolk; ob. succeeded as 4th Lord Talbot in 1387; ob. Sept. 7, 1396.
Aug. 3, 1375.

I.
Gilbert, = Beatrix Pinto, of Portugal;
aged 13 at d. of his father, whom he succeeded m. secondly;
in 1396 as 5th Ld. Talbot; succeeded his Thos. Fet-
mother in 1413 as 8th Lord Strange of tiplace of
Blackmere; summoned to Parl. 1404-17. East Shef-
K.G. 1407. Ob.s.p.m. Oct. 19, 1419. ford, Berks;
ob. Dec. 25,
1447.

3.

John, 4th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Mary fitzAlan, d. of Richard Earl of Arundel; Hamon le S. Eleanor le S. = Regl. 2nd Ld. Grey
aged 19 at his father's d.; not she m. secondly, before 1360, John b. Jan. 13, 1332; summoned to Parl. 1360; ob. May 12, 1361.
summoned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p., Ld. de Ferrers; and thirdly, Regl. 1360; ob. May 12, 1361.
Sept. 6, 1349.

John, 5th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Isabel Beauchamp, 3th d. of Thos. Ankaret (7th) Baroness Strange of Blackmere; = Richd. Talbot, s. and h. of Gilbert, 3rd Lord Talbot;
aged 6 at his father's d.; not sum- Earl of Warwick; m. secondly, summoned to Parl. 1375.
moned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p.m., Wm. 2nd Earl of Suffolk; ob. succeeded as 4th Lord Talbot in 1387; ob. Sept. 7, 1396.
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I.
Gilbert, = Beatrix Pinto, of Portugal;
aged 13 at d. of his father, whom he succeeded m. secondly;
in 1396 as 5th Ld. Talbot; succeeded his Thos. Fet-
mother in 1413 as 8th Lord Strange of tiplace of
Blackmere; summoned to Parl. 1404-17. East Shef-
K.G. 1407. Ob.s.p.m. Oct. 19, 1419. ford, Berks;
ob. Dec. 25,
1447.

John, 5th Lord Strange of Blackmere, = Isabel Beauchamp, 3th d. of Thos. Ankaret (7th) Baroness Strange of Blackmere; = Richd. Talbot, s. and h. of Gilbert, 3rd Lord Talbot;
aged 6 at his father's d.; not sum- Earl of Warwick; m. secondly, summoned to Parl. 1375.
moned to Parl.; ob.inf.s.p.m., Wm. 2nd Earl of Suffolk; ob. succeeded as 4th Lord Talbot in 1387; ob. Sept. 7, 1396.
Aug. 3, 1375.

I.
Gilbert, = Beatrix Pinto, of Portugal;
aged 13 at d. of his father, whom he succeeded m. secondly;
in 1396 as 5th Ld. Talbot; succeeded his Thos. Fet-
mother in 1413 as 8th Lord Strange of tiplace of
Blackmere; summoned to Parl. 1404-17. East Shef-
K.G. 1407. Ob.s.p.m. Oct. 19, 1419. ford, Berks;
ob. Dec. 25,
1447.

Ankaret (6th) Baroness Strange of Blackmere,
and (6th) Baroness Talbot; aged 2 years at
her father's d.; ob.s.p. Dec. 13, 1421.

The Barony of Strange of Blackmere was thenceforward
merged in the earldom of Shrewsbury, and so con-
tinued until the 8th of May 1616, when it fell into
abeyance on the death s.p.m. of Gilbert, 7th Earl of
Shrewsbury.

CHAPTER VIII

LE STRANGE OF BLACKMERE

1309-1616

OF Robert, the progenitor of this House, the fourth and youngest son of John le Strange (III) of Knockin, some account has already been given.¹ He died before September 1276, and his eldest son, John, who had been committed during his minority to the custody of Eineon, Bishop of St. Asaph, came of age on September 17, 1287,² and was admitted to his inheritance on October 6 following ; a memorandum of the same date states that John came into Chancery at Westminster, and acknowledged that his marriage belonged to Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, the chancellor.³ No marriage took place, and John died within two years ; on June 14, 1289, the escheator south of Trent was ordered to take into the King's hands the lands late of John, son of Robert le Strange, deceased, tenant in chief.⁴ At the inquisition, held at Chester on July 17, the jury found that John, when he died, held in chief the manor of Marbury by service of one knight's fee, worth £10, and that of the third part thereof his mother Eleanor, wife of Robert, was dowered ; also that Fulk, son of the said Robert, and brother of John, is heir, and of the age of twenty-two years.⁵ The authorities did not even wait for the result of the above inquisition, as, on July 16, *i.e.* the day before it was

¹ *Supra*, pp. 170-175.

² Chancery Inq. p.m., 15 Edw. I, File 49 (13).

³ *C. Cl. R.*, 1279-1288, pp. 458 and 489.

⁴ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 260 ; *Rot. Orig. in Cur. Scacc.*, i. 612.

⁵ Chancery Inq. p.m., Edw. I, File 53 (15).

held, the escheator was ordered to deliver to Fulk, brother and heir of John le Strange, the lands of his said brother, he having done fealty, so that he do homage on the King's coming to England.¹ The Hampshire inquisition, held on July 9, 1289, found that John le Strange held the manor of Chawton in that county, including a pasture called *Estdone*, and a wood in the forest containing 200 acres, worth no more than 5s. on account of the dues of the foresters (*dangerium forestariorum*), held of Sir Edmund, Earl of Leicester, the King's brother, by service of three knight's fees; and that Eleanor, mother of the said John, was dowered in this manor.²

The farm of the manor of Wrockwardine, which was held of the King at a yearly rent of £8,³ had fallen into arrear during the minority of Fulk, and the accumulated debt when John had livery thereof amounted to £66. Fulk obtained a grant from the King in 1290, pursuant to which the Exchequer was notified that he would pay 60s. at Easter and Michaelmas next, and 100s. at Easter and Michaelmas following, and so from year to year until the debt was liquidated.⁴ At the Assizes of 1292 the Bradford jurors presented Fulk, as of full age and yet not a knight, also as claiming free-warren, free court, gallows, and assize of bread and beer in his manor of Wrockwardine,⁵ he was summoned by writ of *Quo Warranto* to show how he claimed those franchises; he averred that King Henry III had granted the said privileges with the manor to his predecessor, John le Strange, whose heir he was. A day was assigned for hearing whether any specific grant of these royal privileges had been made. The pleadings are set out at length, but no decision is recorded.⁶

A licence is entered on the Patent Rolls of July 14, 1294, for Fulk le Strange, going on the King's service to Gascony, to sell, cut down, and carry timber to the value of £40 out of his wood of Chawton, within the metes of the forest of Porchester, in those places where it will be to the least damage of the said forest.⁷

¹ *C.F.R.*, 1272-1307, i. 263.

² *Supra*, p. 186.

³ Eyton, ix. 26.

⁴ *Plac. de Quo Warr.*, *Edw. I, II, and III*, pp. 684, 687.

⁵ *C.P.R.*, *Edw. I*, 1292-1301, p. 80.

⁶ *Inq. p.m.*, *Edw. I*, File 53 (15).

⁷ *Rot. Orig. in cur. Scacc.*, i. 65b.

It is evident that he won his spurs in that expedition, as three years later, viz. on March 3, 1297, an order is entered on the Close Rolls to cause Fulk le Strange to be acquitted of £24, exacted from him by reason of the manor of Chawton, Hampshire, which belonged to Hamon le Strange, late Sheriff of Hampshire, now in Fulk's hands, which sum Hamon owed to the Exchequer for many defaults when he was Sheriff, as the King has pardoned this sum to Fulk for good service rendered in Gascony.¹ In 1297 he was returned from the county of Salop as holding lands to the value of £20 yearly, and, as such, was summoned to the muster at London under the general writ, to perform military service in person beyond seas.² Eyton, commenting on these writs, says that they contain more than sixty entries of his offices, liabilities, and summonses both military and parliamentary, during a period of thirty years.³ His name appears among the knights summoned from the county of Sussex to meet the King at York at Pentecost, 1298, thence to set out for Scotland;⁴ this was for the campaign in which Edward defeated the Scots at Falkirk. Next year an order appears on the Close Rolls, under date of November 16, to cause Fulk le Strange, who is setting out for the King's service in Scotland with William le Latimer, to have respite until Easter for all debts due to the King.⁵ On the same day he had letters of protection until Michaelmas, as he was going to Scotland with the King.⁶ On April 14, 1300, the Justice of Chester was ordered to warn Hugh de Audley and Fulk le Strange to provide themselves with horses and arms, and to be with the King at Carlisle at midsummer, ready to set out at his wages against the Scots.⁷ Fulk was appointed on the same day one of the commissioners to summon the knights of the county of Chester for the purpose of serving against the Scots, and he was enjoined on April 11 to enforce the levies of the men-at-arms in that county, and to return the names of all defaulters into the wardrobe.⁸ It was perhaps

¹ *C. Cl. R., Edw. I, 1296-1302, iv. 19.*

² Eyton, ii. 122, *n.*

³ *C. Cl. R., 1296-1302, iv. 286.*

⁷ *C. Cl. R., 1296-1302, p. 381.*

² *Parl. Writs, i. 848.*

⁴ *Parl. Writs, i. 312.*

⁶ *C.P.R., 1292-1301, p. 456.*

⁸ *Parl. Writs, i. 848.*

because he was engaged on these duties that he was not present, as was his cousin John (V) of Knockin, at the siege of Caerlaverock in July.

Fulk le Strange acquired a considerable extension of property through his wife Eleanor, daughter and co-heiress of John Giffard of Brimsfield, co. Gloucester, who died on May 28, 1299, at which date Eleanor was twenty-four years of age.¹ Her mother, Maud, who had predeceased John Giffard, was daughter and co-heiress of Walter de Clifford (III), and on the division of the Clifford estates between the co-heiresses, the important manor of Corfham, in Shropshire, fell to the share of Eleanor. Corfham was an ancient demesne of the Crown, which had originally been given by Henry II to Walter de Clifford (I) for love of fair Rosamond, his daughter.

Though not summoned to the Parliament at Lincoln in 1301, Fulk's name appears among the barons who sealed the letter to the Pope on February 12. The legend on his seal, a copy of which is figured in the chapter of the heraldry of the family,² is simply :

S' : FULCHONIS : LE : ESTRAVNGE

without any territorial designation; while, in the body of the original document, as printed by Lord Howard de Walden,³ and also in the 'Complete Peerage,'⁴ it is given as '*D'n's de Corsham.*' This, I venture to believe, is an error, due to the similarity in the MS. of the long 's' to the letter 'f.' It may even have been an error made by the scribe who wrote the original MS., who perhaps knew Corsham in Wiltshire, but had never heard of Corfham in Shropshire. It is, however, somewhat curious that Fulk should have adopted as his designation the name of a Shropshire manor, which, as we have seen, he only held in right of his wife, instead of calling himself Lord of Wrockwardine, or some other manor which he held in his own right.

¹ Inq. 27 Edw. I, No. 55.

² *Infra*, p. 371, Pl. x. 4.

³ *Some Feudal Lords and their Seals* mcci. With an Introduction by Lord Howard de Walden, p. 140.

⁴ 1st ed. vii. 271.

The designation of Lord of Corfham leads to the same confusion in other instances. The Calendar of Papal Letters published in the Rolls Series contains two letters from Clement V, dated at Poitiers on November 21, 1307, to Fulk le Strange, Lord of Whitchurch, in the diocese of Coventry, and Margaret, daughter of the late John Giffard, Lord of Corsham, in the diocese of Hereford.¹ The mention of the diocese proves that Corfham was intended, since Corsham in Wiltshire is not in the diocese of Hereford, but in that of Salisbury, while Corfham in Shropshire is in the diocese of Hereford. The Pope's letters convey a dispensation, the necessity for which is difficult to explain. The first letter is written to Fulk and *Margaret* his wife; probably it was found out at once that her name was not Margaret but *Eleanor*, since the second letter of the same date and tenour names her correctly as Eleanor, daughter of John Giffard; it empowers them to continue in the marriage which they have contracted in ignorance that they were related in the fourth degree of kindred, with legitimation of issue, past and future. A careful examination of the pedigrees of Fulk and Eleanor, so far as I have been able to trace them, fails to disclose any relationship whatever.

Richard fitz Alan, lord of Clun and Oswestry, and Earl of Arundel, had died early in 1302, leaving his son Edmund a minor. The custody of the castles of Clun and Oswestry, with several Shropshire manors belonging to him, was committed during pleasure to Fulk le Strange in the 33rd of Edward I.²

In 1306 Edward again invaded Scotland, and Fulk was among those summoned to Carlisle on July 8 to perform military service in person, or to appear at the Exchequer to compound for such service.³ The Close Rolls of May 15, 1308, contain an order to the Treasurer of the Exchequer acquitting Fulk le Strange of 100s. rent in Acton Round, Salop, demised by Richard, late Earl of Arundel, to John de Siboton.⁴ Another entry, on December 12 of the following year, directs the Treasurer to allow to Fulk, son and heir of Robert le Strange, the sums levied by the Sheriff

¹ *Papal Letters*, 1305-1342, ii. 32 and 38.

³ *Parl. Writs*, i. 848.

² *Rot. Orig. in cur. Scacc.*, i. 65b.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1307-1313, p. 36.

of Salop and Stafford from Robert, in part payment of debts due to the late King.¹

The name of John, son of Fulk le Strange, appears in an inquisition *Ad Quod Damnum*, held in 1307, respecting '*Chalghton bosc infra metas foreste pro maeremio (timber) ibidem prostrato.*'² This, no doubt, had reference to the licence granted to Fulk in 1294³ to cut down £40 worth of timber in Chawton wood. On May 4, 1309, Fulk was placed with others on a commission of *Oyer and Terminer* respecting Ivo de Sutton's misappropriation of moneys.⁴ On July 30 of that year he was summoned to be at Newcastle-on-Tyne, '*equis et armis,*' on Michaelmas day, to proceed against the Scots who do not observe the truce.⁵ On September 6, 1309, he attested the important family arrangement for assuring Knockin to John le Strange (VI), and enfeoffing the latter's brother Hamon in the manor of Hunstanton,⁶ and he also witnessed the further documents of November 30⁷ and December 8⁸ for carrying that arrangement into effect. I have already mentioned⁹ that he was one of the three le Strange knights present at the tournament at Stepney in June, 1309.

The barony of Strange of Blackmere is considered by modern peerage lawyers to have been created by the writ addressed to Fulk le Strange on January 13, 1309, summoning him to attend Parliament,¹⁰ and by usage of a later date he is set down as the first peer of that creation. Although descriptively a baron, that designation was scarcely as yet a title; by contemporaries he was simply styled '*dominus*' or '*miles*'; our translation of *dominus* as='sir' when speaking of a knight, and='lord' when speaking of a baron obscures the similarity of the mediæval use of the term for both classes alike.

The Parliamentary Writs for the next fifteen years teem with summonses addressed to Fulk.¹¹ In 1309 he was summoned to

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1307-1313, p. 187.

³ *Supra*, p. 290.

⁵ *Rot. Claus.*, 3 Edw. II, m. 44, dors.

⁷ *Ibid.* [A. 2.]

⁹ *Supra*, p. 220.

¹¹ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, p. 1468.

² *Cal. Rot. Chart. Inq. a. Q.D.*, p. 221b.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1307-1313, p. 172.

⁶ *Hunstn. Evidences* [A. 1.]

⁸ *Ibid.* [A. 4.]

¹⁰ *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), vii. 271.

a council to be held at Westminster on February 23 ; to a Parliament there on April 27 ; to another to be held at Stamford on July 27 ; to a muster at Newcastle on September 29 for military service in person against the Scots ; ¹ to a Parliament to be holden at York on February 8 following, the date and meeting-place of which were altered by a later summons to December 12 at Westminster. On December 18, 1309, he was appointed one of three Justices in Shropshire to receive complaints of *prises* taken contrary to the statute.²

In 1310 the quarrel between the barons and the King's favourite, Piers Gaveston, was in active progress ; Gaveston had been deprived of his honours and banished, and Edward, in order to escape from the control of the barons, had gone north and invaded Scotland with such adherents as he could prevail on to join him. On June 18 Fulk le Strange was among those summoned to muster at Berwick ; on August 2 he was earnestly requested to attend the muster according to the preceding summons. It looks as if he was unable or unwilling to go in person, as on September 19 he proffered the service of one knight's fee, and on the 20th part of another, to be performed by two '*servientes*.' In 1311 Fulk was requested to be at Berwick on May 28 with as many followers as he could raise. He was summoned to Parliament at London on August 8, and again to the Parliament to be held by prorogation at Westminster on November 5 ; he was again summoned among the barons to Westminster on February 13 following.

In 1312 the barons, headed by Thomas Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Henry III, took up arms, and Gaveston was captured and beheaded ; the King was deserted by his forces, and was obliged to make peace with the insurgent barons, and to promise them pardon for the death of Gaveston. The treaty between the King and the Earl of Lancaster and others, made on December 21, 1312, contained the following clause :

Et, de ce, que monsieur Fouk Lestrangle se plaint que hom li ad fait gref, et desseisi de puis le dit conduit, li ditz auditours appelez lez gentz le Roi, et le dit monsieur Fouk, et oies lor resons, il leur ferront droit dessi come desus est dit.

¹ Rot. Claus., 10 Edw. II, m. 26, d.

² C.P.R., 3 Edw. II, p. 251.

³ Rot. Claus. 6 Edw. II, m. 8, d.

The lands and goods of Fulk le Strange, as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster, had been seized into the King's hands, notwithstanding the safe conduct granted to the Earl and his followers ; but on complaint being made by Fulk, a commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued to the Justices on December 31, 1312.¹ He had been summoned to the Parliament held at Lincoln on July 23, and by prorogation at Westminster on August 20. Three Parliaments, to each of which Fulk was summoned, were held during 1313 to settle matters.² At the last of these, held on October 16, special pardons, 472 in number, were issued to the barons and knights who had been associated with the Earl of Lancaster, one of these being granted to Fulk le Strange.³

Fulk le Strange, mindful of the blood-ties which connected him with the Welsh lords of Upper Powys, backed up his first cousin, Griffith de la Pole, in his attempt to deprive John Charlton of Pool Castle, which John claimed by right of his wife Hawise Gadarn (*i.e.* the mighty), granddaughter of Hawise le Strange and Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, also a cousin of Fulk's (his aunt Hawise's granddaughter). Charlton was a prominent courtier, the King's chamberlain, and his pushful policy was naturally resented by the Shropshire lords of settled position like the le Stranges. An amnesty was granted on November 6, 1313, to Griffith de la Pole and Fulk le Strange and their adherents for the siege of Pool Castle, and for all deeds of arms in the lands of Powys and la Pole ; and for John de Charlton, who held the castle during such siege, and his adherents, touching all acts done by them at that time.⁴ Roger de Mortimer, of Chirk, Justice of Wales, was directed on November 22 to release all those whom he had arrested on account of the siege of the castle, whom he knows to be accomplices of Griffith de la Pole and Fulk le Strange, as Parliament has enacted that they should not be molested.⁵ These transactions clearly show that in politics Fulk, like most of the Marchers at that period, was on the side of the

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1307-1313, p. 546.

² *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, p. 1469.

³ *Pat. Rolls*, 7 Edw. II, m. 15, i.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1313-1317, p. 26.

⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1313-1318, p. 29 ; *Rot. Pat.*, 7 Edw. II, pt. i., in ced. m. 15.

Lords Ordainers ; thus, as so often happened, the course of private feuds and general politics ran in the same channels.

Fulk was summoned on December 23, 1313, to be at Berwick *equis et armis*, on June 4, to set out against Robert the Bruce.¹ A commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued to the Justices, on September 13, 1314, on complaint by Fulk le Strange touching the persons who forcibly entered his free chaces of Clyes and Ernestre, co. Salop, hunted therein without licence, and carried away deer.² This complaint was renewed in 1318 and 1320, and further commissions of *Oyer and Terminer* were appointed.³ In spite of the order of 1297⁴ acquitting Fulk for £24, due to the Exchequer from the manor of Chawton, demands appear to have been still made on Fulk for that debt, as the Close Rolls of February 24, 1315, contain an entry acquitting him thereof, as the King had pardoned him that sum in consideration of his good services in Gascony.⁵

In 1314 Edward marched with a large force into Scotland, but was totally defeated at Bannockburn and obliged to retire to Berwick. A writ issued thence on June 30, six days after the battle, summoned Fulk to muster anew at Newcastle on August 15, and he was also directed to attend a Parliament at York on September 9. The Scots ravaged Northumberland in 1315, and besieged Carlisle in August ; on the 30th of that month Fulk, with other barons, received writs requesting them to continue in the northern parts during the winter campaign, and to repair to the King on November 1.⁶ A Parliament, to which Fulk was summoned, was ordered to meet at Lincoln on January 27, 1316.

The settlement of the manor of Cheswardine on Hamon, a younger son of Fulk, in 1315, has already been mentioned.⁷ In the *Nomina Villarum*, a return by the Sheriffs in 1316 of the names of all the villages in England and the possessors thereof, Fulk le Strange is entered as sole lord of *Album Monasterium* (Whitchurch), and the inquest at his death in 1324 shows that he held it of Earl Warenne 'by service of taking the venison throughout the Earl's

¹ Rot. Claus., 7 Edw. II, m. 14, d.

³ *Ibid.* pp. 293, 447.

⁶ Rot. Claus., 9 Edw. II, m. 24, d.

² C.P.R., 1313-1317, p. 236.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 291.

⁵ C. Cl. R., 1313-1318, p. 163.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 247.

lands in England, at the charges of the said Earl.' ¹ The Feodary of 1316 certifies him as lord of the following manors :

Salop	{	Blaunchminster (Whitchurch).
		Rockardyne (Wrockwardine).
		Corfham.
		Longenotr' (Longnor).
		Sutton.
Southampton	{	Chalston (Chawton).
		Clanfield.
		Blendworth.
		Catherington. ²

Fulk was summoned thrice in 1316 to perform military service against the Scots,³ but the Earl of Lancaster refused to join the royal army, and the expedition was abandoned. Thrice again he was summoned for the same object in 1317, but nothing came of it. Three more summonses were issued to him in 1318 to attend a Parliament at Lincoln, which was as often prorogued ; on June 8 he had a writ, as one of the *Majores Barones*, informing him that the Parliament summoned and prorogued as above is revoked in consequence of the invasion of the Scots. He was again summoned to the Parliament which met at York on October 20,⁴ and two days later ⁵ he obtained a pardon there, by consent of Parliament, for all felonies and trespasses committed by him as one of the adherents of the Earl of Lancaster, up to August 7 last. At Christmas of this year he was at Haughmond, as his name appears as one of the attesting witnesses to the deed whereby Edmund, Earl of Arundel, confirmed the gifts made by his predecessors to that abbey.⁶ In 1319 we find him included in the writ for a Parliament to meet at York on May 6, and again, at the end of the year, in the writ for the meeting of Parliament at the same city on January 20, 1320. He was further summoned

¹ Inq. 17 Edw. II, No. 73.

² *Parl. Writs*, i. 848 ; *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, iv. pp. 226, 227, 230, and 234.

³ *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, p. 1419.

⁴ Doc. illustr. of Engl. hist. in thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, *Queen's Remembrancer*, p. 11.

⁵ Rot. Pat. 12 Edw. II, pt. 1, m. 17.

⁶ Eyton, xi. 19.

to that which met at Westminster on October 6 following, at which the supremacy of England over the narrow seas was asserted. On January 19, 1321, he was associated with the Archbishop of York and others to treat for peace with Robert the Bruce.¹

The King was now beginning to show favour to Hugh le Despencer, the younger, on whom he bestowed vast estates, and the hand of Eleanor, one of the sisters and co-heiresses of the Earl of Gloucester, who had been killed at Bannockburn; yet Hugh was never a favourite like Gaveston, and in 1318-19 was hardly one of the courtier nobles, but rather inclined to the 'middle' party that Pembroke was beginning to consolidate.² From his marriage Despencer received a large share of South Wales, and his covetous encroachments soon embroiled him with his Marcher neighbours, the Mortimers and the Earl of Hereford, who in 1321 formed an association to drive the Despenchers out of the kingdom. Fulk le Strange, like most of the Marchers, changed sides as a result of their natural fear of Despencer's designs on the March: for very much the same reasons as in 1263 had brought about the change of front by the Marcher barons of that day, when they rallied to the King owing to the alliance between Llewelyn and de Montfort and the aggressive policy of the latter.³ On April 21 a writ, directed to Fulk le Strange, requests him to co-operate in appeasing the disturbances, and also to refrain from attending any illegal confederacies or assemblies.⁴ He was summoned to a Parliament at Westminster on May 15, and was ordered to abstain from the meeting of the 'good peers,' illegally convened by the Earl of Lancaster, to be held at Doncaster on November 29, 1321.⁵

Early in 1322 the King took up arms against the barons. Fulk was enjoined by writ on February 6 to raise as many men-at-arms and foot-soldiers as he could, and to hold himself in readiness to march with them to the King when thereto summoned. The summons came quickly; he was ordered to appear

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1317-1321, p. 554.

² T. F. Tout, *The Place of Edward II in English History*, pp. 136-141.

³ *Supra*, p. 128.

⁴ Rot. Claus., 14 Edw. II, m. 7 dors. cedula.

⁵ *Ibid.* 15 Edw. II, m. 25, dors.

with his forces at the muster at Coventry on February 28, for the purpose of marching against the rebels or adherents of the Earl of Lancaster. The rebels retreated before the royal forces. Lancaster was defeated and captured at Boroughbridge on March 16, and was executed at Pontefract a few days later. Parliament, to which Fulk had been summoned, met at York on May 2, and the King now turned his forces against the Scots. Fulk was among those ordered to be at Newcastle to perform military service against them in July; Edward invaded Scotland without effecting anything, and his forces were greatly harassed on their retreat.

The manor of Longnor, mentioned in the Feodary of 1316¹ as one of the Shropshire estates held by Fulk le Strange, had been granted to him, on March 11, 1312, by his first cousin, Griffith de la Pole,² apparently by way of sale. The latter further quit-claimed on February 5, 1321, all his rights in the said manor to Fulk.³ Longnor was settled by Fulk, by deed dated at Shrewsbury on April 25, 1322, on his younger son, Fulk, to be held by a rose-rent paid to the grantor and his heirs. If Fulk should die without heirs, the manor was to pass to his youngest brother, Hamon.⁴ Fulk the younger thus became lord of Longnor, which, consequently, is not included among the lands mentioned in the inquest on his father's death.

Another Shropshire manor of which Fulk at times styled himself lord was Sutton-Madock, in which he had been enfeoffed during his minority by his father, before Robert started for the Holy Land. The Chartulary of Wombridge shows that Fulk gave several grants to that priory out of this manor. By an undated charter, as 'Dominus de Sutton Madoc,' he released to the priory a tenement in Brocton, and also a meadow therein. By an agreement between himself and Philip, prior of Wombridge, he exchanged a mill at Hadinton for a messuage with orchard and croft.⁵

On April 11, 1322, Fulk le Strange was appointed to the im-

¹ *Supra*, p. 298.

² Eyton, vi. 63.

³ *Ibid.*, quoting charters at Longnor.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 65.

⁵ Wombridge Chartulary, quoted in *Trans. Shrops. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, ix. (2nd series), pp. 387, 388, and 415.

portant office of Seneschal of Gascony,¹ a position which corresponded to that of the Justices in Wales and Chester. The Seneschal administered the province in the name of the King in his capacity of Duke of Gascony, at a salary of £500, and reasonable expenses when absent on duty elsewhere. Fulk's appointment was no doubt due to the King's remembrance of the good services which he had rendered there in 1294.² Charles IV (le Bel) had lately succeeded his brother Philip on the throne of France, and, in order to effect the conquest of the Duchy of Guienne, he sought a quarrel with the English King. The Patent Rolls of January 18, 1322, contain letters of protection for one year for Fulk Lestraunge in his manors of Whitchurch, Wrockwardine, Sutton, Bocton, Cheswardine, Morton Toret, Corfham, &c.³ Among the Gascon Rolls is a letter of April 13, 1322, from the King to Fulk, as Seneschal of Gascony, sending him a copy of a letter to the people of Aquitaine asking for an aid and subsidy towards the expenses of the Scotch war.⁴ On May 6 Fulk nominated John du Lee and William Datton his attorneys for three years, as he was going beyond seas on the King's service,⁵ and the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer were directed, on May 10, to cause Fulk on that account to have respite until Christmas next for all debts due from him.⁶ Further letters of protection, with clause *volumus*, were granted to him for a year from May 12.⁷ He took with him in his company Nicholas de Sanford, who had letters nominating an attorney for three years.⁸ As a safeguard for the property which he was leaving behind, Fulk obtained a licence, on July 14, 1322, to crenellate his dwelling-house (*mansum suum*) of Whitchurch.⁹ Instructions were sent to him from the King on September 28, as to how to proceed in allaying the disputes which had broken out in Gascony,¹⁰ and further directions as to the complaints of the King of France were addressed to him on April 4, 1323.¹¹ On the same day the King despatched a letter

¹ Gascon Roll, 15-17 Edw. II, m. 15.

² *C.P.R.*, 1321-1324, iv. 50.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1321-1324, p. 107.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1321-1324, p. 108.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 175.

⁶ *Ibid.* i. 220.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 291.

⁸ Rot. Vasc., 15 Edw. II, m. 16.

⁹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1318-1323, p. 440.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 128.

¹¹ Rymer's *Fædera*, i. 218.

'*dilecto et fideli suo Fulconi l'Estraunge senescallo suo Vasconie*,' requiring him to exact an indemnity for injuries done to his vassal Bernard Trencaleo, '*domino terre feudi Marconis*.'¹

A letter of Pope John XXII, written from Avignon on March 15, 1323, shows Fulk as Seneschal of Aquitaine; it is addressed to Robert Corbet, lord of the town of Morton, in the diocese of Lichfield, and Elizabeth, daughter of Fulk le Strange, Seneschal of the duchy of Aquitaine, and conveys to them a dispensation to remain in the marriage which they contracted in ignorance that they were related in the fourth degree, and declares their past and future offspring legitimate.² Another letter from the same Pope was addressed to Fulk himself, as Seneschal of Aquitaine, on September 13, 1323, requesting him to put no hindrance in the way of the restoration of a little castle to Gaston, Count of Foix, but to promote the treaty touching the same.³ On May 30, 1323, Edward II had concluded a truce for thirteen years with Scotland, so on June 2 a despatch was sent to Fulk le Strange, Seneschal of Gascony, superseding the King's order to him requesting the nobles of the duchy of Aquitaine to come with horses and arms to set out against the Scots; he was further directed to dispose of the wine and victuals purveyed for the expedition.⁴

Several original letters are preserved in the volumes of 'Ancient Correspondence,' at the Record Office, from Fulk le Strange, in which he describes himself as '*dominus Albi Monasterrii, ducatus Aquitanie Senescallus*'; the earliest of these to which a date is attached was addressed on April 26, 1323, '*discreto viro domino Ade de lumbe, Constabulario Burd.*'⁵ This is undoubtedly Adam de Lymbergh, who was appointed Constable a few weeks after Fulk became Seneschal.⁶ The Constable of Bordeaux was the second of the two chief officers of the King, as Duke of Gascony, and had the supreme responsibility for finance. During part

¹ Rot. Vasc., 16 Edw. II, m. 10.

² Cal. Royal Letters, 1305-1342, ii. 229.

³ Ibid. ii. 455.

⁴ C. Cl. R., 1318-1323, p. 217.

⁵ P.R.O. Ancient Correspondence, l. 7; see also xix. No. 7; xli. 55; l. 6.

⁶ Gasc. Roll; quoted in T. F. Tout's *Place of Edward II in English History*, pp. 392-7.

of the time that Fulk le Strange was Seneschal he was too ill to act, and Adam de Lymbergh, the King's clerk, sent out with him as Constable, acted in his stead.¹

Notwithstanding his absence in Aquitaine, Fulk's name was included in several writs requiring him to perform military service in England, or to attend Parliament there during the year 1323. He was summoned to attend the musters at York on April 24 and at Newcastle on July 1, and was commanded to raise as many men-at-arms as he could over and above his contingent due by tenure. He was re-summoned to appear as above at York, and, at latest by April 18, to provide pack-saddles for the use of the army, in case it should be expedient to advance without the waggon-train. A writ of June 2 discharges him from attendance at the above-named musters—perhaps by that time the authorities had discovered that he was on the King's service in France. His name was, nevertheless, included in the writ for the meeting of Parliament on November 20 and December 26, 1323, as well as in one for a similar purpose dated September 13, 1324.² At this time he was certainly dead. It is a little doubtful whether Fulk died in Gascony, though his serious illness may have kept him there until his death. Anyhow, after being too ill to act, he was succeeded as Seneschal by Ralph Basset, of Drayton, on June 11, 1323.³

The writ of '*Diem clausit extremum*' issued on the death of Fulk le Strange is tested at Fulham on February 23, 1324, and by the inquisitions taken thereon it was found that John, his son and heir, was then of the age of eighteen years and upwards.⁴ By his wife, Eleanor Giffard, Fulk had three sons and one daughter—(1) his eldest son, John, who succeeded him in Whitchurch, &c.; (2) Fulk, who, as we have seen,⁵ had had Longnor settled on him by his father two years before the latter's death, and also held the manor of Betton Strange;⁶ and (3) Hamon, who acquired Cheswardine, by the remainder to him conveyed at the time of his father's feoffment therein by John, son of Roger le Strange, of

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 101.

² *Parl. Writs*, ii. Div. 3, 1469.

³ *Gasc. Rolls*, 15-17 Edw. II, m. 10.

⁴ *Esc.* 17 *Edw. II*, No. 73 (new No. File 82). ⁵ *Supra*, p. 300. ⁶ *Supra*, p. 207.

Ellesmere, in 1315.¹ Fulk of Longnor was deceased in 1375, and left only three daughters to share his inheritance ; one of these, Margaret, a nun, left her share in 1375 to her two sisters, of whom one, Joan, the eldest, was the wife of John Careles, and the other, Eleanor, had married Edward de Acton. Eyton states that the line of Careles eventually ended in a female, who married John Corbett, from whom the present family of Corbett of Longnor descends.² On the death of Fulk le Strange of Longnor and Betton, the last-named manor passed to his brother Hamon of Cheswardine, the third son of Fulk of Blackmere, whose wife, Margaret, survived him, and was dowered of Betton.³ On her death it descended to John le Strange of Blackmere, her husband's great-nephew. The only mention which I have found of Elizabeth, the daughter of Fulk le Strange and Eleanor Giffard, is in the papal letter already quoted,⁴ which shows that she was married to Robert Corbet of Moreton. Eyton gives the name of this Robert's wife as Elizabeth, but was not aware of her surname.⁵

The Nottingham inquisition, on the death of Fulk of Blackmere, shows that he held the third part of the manor of Thornhagh, in right of his wife Eleanor, of the Bishop of Lincoln as of the Castle of Newark. In Hampshire he held the manor of Chawton, extended at 48s., which included a hundred acres of wood within the King's forest of Porchester, held of the Earl of Leicester in chief by service of one knight's fee and a pair of silver-gilt spurs yearly.⁶ In Salop he held Wrockwardine by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and £8 yearly, payable at the Exchequer. The extent mentions an iron mine—'*et est ibidem quedam minera ferri.*' The manor was worth 13s. 4d. per annum. In the same county he held the manor of Sutton *in capite* by rendering 4s. per annum at the Exchequer, and the castle of Corfham, with Culmington a member thereof. This he held for term of his life in chief in right of his late wife by service of a knight's fee. He further held the manor of Whitchurch. The extent of this manor is very faint and illegible in parts ; it shows that it was held of Earl Warenne,

¹ *Supra*, p. 247.

² Eyton, vi. 66.

³ *Fines of Edw. III*, m. 14 ; Dodsworth's MSS., vol. 32.

⁴ *Supra*, p. 302.

⁵ Eyton, x. 182.

⁶ *C.I.P.M.*, vi. 309, No. 516.

by the service of taking his venison throughout the lands of the said earl in England, at the costs of the said earl. There are payable thereout yearly to the King's manor of Aderdeleye 10s. and a sparrow-hawk, or 2s. ; and six marks to Richard de Leylonde for life from the mill of Whitchurch by grant of the said Fulk. His heir was his son John, aged eighteen at the feast of St. Paul last [January 25, 1324].

In the summonses of September 24, 1324, to the Parliament to be held at Westminster instead of Salisbury in three weeks from Michaelmas, Fulk le Strange is specially excepted¹—he had certainly been dead for more than seven months !

The Sheriff of Salop was directed, on June 2, 1325, to receive from John, son of Fulk le Strange, tenant-in-chief, security for the payment of 600 marks yearly to the King until he come of age.² On August 1 following, by reason of the above security, the wardship of the lands of his late father, in the King's hands by his minority, was committed to John, to hold from midsummer last until his lawful age, except knight's fees and advowsons of churches, and dowers when they fall in, rendering £400 a year at the Exchequer, in moieties at Michaelmas and Easter. Licence was granted for the same John to marry whomsoever he will, for a fine of £400 made by him at the Exchequer.³

John, in later times, reckoned to be the second Lord Strange of Blackmere, came of age on January 25, 1327, the same day as that on which Edward III acceded to the throne. A month later, namely, on February 26, the escheator was ordered to cause him to have seisin of his father's lands, as he had made proof of age and the King had received his homage ; he held by service of $1\frac{1}{4}$ knight's fee and a yearly payment of £8.⁴ He had already had early training at Court as '*valettus regis*,' or King's yeoman, of Edward II, apparently during the last years of his reign—perhaps when his father was seneschal of Aquitaine, and after the latter's death ; we shall see that he soon became ' King's valet ' of Edward III. A mandate was issued on July 12, 1327, to the Treasurer of the Exchequer to allow to John le Strange, son

¹ C. Cl. R., 1323-1327, p. 311.

² *Ibid.* p. 291.

³ C.F.R., 1319-1327, iii. 356.

⁴ C. Cl. R., 1327-1330, p. 10.

and heir of Fulk, in debts due from him for the custody of his inheritance, and for his marriage, which were granted to him by the late King, the sum of £90 for 134 oak trees of the best [*de electo*], felled by the late King in John's wood of Chawton during his minority and carried to Porchester Castle.¹

In or before 1327 John le Strange had exercised his right of marrying 'whomsoever he would' by espousing Ankaret, daughter of William le Botiler (II) of Wem, Salop, who eventually became a co-heiress by the decease of her two brothers without issue. Her father obtained a licence, dated May 20, 1327, to enfeof William Hereward, parson of the church of Weston Turvill, in the manor of Dodynton, held in chief, and for the said feoffee to regrant it to the said William le Botiler for life, with remainder to John le Strange of Whitchurch and Ankaret his wife, in fee tail, with remainder to the right heirs of William le Botiler.² Dodynton was held *in capite* by one-third of a knight's fee, and was worth four marks per annum. The escheator south of Trent was ordered, on October 6, 1337, to deliver to John le Strange a moiety of the manor of Assheton and the advowson of Codford (Wilts), which he inherited from his maternal grandfather, John Giffard of Brimsfield.³ By mandate of March 6, 1329, allowance was made at the Exchequer for £8 16s. 2½*d.* paid to John le Strange, the late King's yeoman, then detained by illness (January 9, 1326) at the manor of Hoxne, and for his fellow chamberlain, three grooms, four horses, and the physicians who came to him, and to their grooms and horses for their necessities.⁴ A similar order was made on the Exchequer on December 30, 1330, to pay the expenses incurred in Aquitaine by Adam de Lymbergh, late the King's Constable of Bordeaux, in discharging the duties of Fulk le Strange, late seneschal of the duchy of Aquitaine, which he could not perform by reason of illness.⁵

On November 28 the escheator was ordered to deliver to Hamon, son of Fulk le Strange, the manor of Cheswardine, by reason of the death of John le Strange (son of Roger) of Cheswardine, as John held it for life of Fulk's grant, and it ought to remain

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1327-1330, p. 142.

² *C.P.R.*, 1327-1330, p. 106.

³ *C. Cl. R.*, 1327-1330, p. 171. ⁴ *Ibid.* p. 433. ⁵ *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 101.

after John's death to the said Hamon, and the King has taken Hamon's homage.¹ The settlement of this manor on Hamon has already been mentioned.²

The custody of Conway Castle, with the usual fees and wages, was committed on November 9, 1330, during good behaviour to the King's yeoman, John le Strange, for his good service.³ A mandate of January 12, 1331, directs the King's chamberlain of North Wales to pay to John such fees as were paid to others who had the custody thereof ;⁴ and another mandate of May 7 following ordered the payment to him of the arrears of the fees belonging thereto.⁵ The King further committed '*valetto suo Johanni Le-straunge*' the vill of Nevin in North Wales, with its appurtenances, to hold during pleasure.⁶ King's yeoman or valet was the designation of a large group of members of the King's household, many of whom were of gentle or noble families. They might become in due course '*scutiferi regis*,' and '*milites regis*,' both being higher ranks. Personal service and membership of the household was the essence of each class.⁷

An entry in the Close Rolls of May 14, 1330, recites an inquisition concerning the lands that belonged to John Giffard of Brimsfield, late tenant-in-chief ; his nearest heirs were John, son of Fulk le Strange and Eleanor his wife, sister of the said John Giffard, and James, son of Nicholas de Audley, issue of Katharine de Audley, the other sister of John Giffard.⁸ The Fine Rolls of June 4, 1327, record an order to the escheator concerning the manor of Badgworth, held by John Giffard of Brimsfield, which manor ought to remain by the form of the gift to John, son of Fulk le Strange and Eleanor his wife, sister of the said John Giffard the son, and to James, son of Nicholas de Audley and Katharine his wife, like sister, a minor in the King's ward, and that the manor is held of the heirs of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester ; the escheator is ordered to make a partition thereof into two equal

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 75.

² *Supra.*, p. 247.

³ *C.F.R.*, iv. 198.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 109.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 229.

⁶ *Rot. Orig. in Cur. Scacc.*, 4 *Edw. III*, ii. 40a. ; *C.F.R.*, iv. 210.

⁷ See 'Household Ordinances of Edward II' in *Tout's Place of Edward II in English History*, p. 281.

⁸ *C. Cl. R.*, 1330-1333, p. 33.

parts, and, retaining a moiety thereof in the King's hand, to deliver the other to the said John le Strange.¹

The manor of Middle, one of the fiefs which had been held for many years by the le Stranges of Knockin,² seems to have belonged for a short time to Thomas de Hastang, who in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 is returned as Lord of Mudell. Eyton says³ that he cannot explain this, except on the supposition that Thomas had married the widow of one of the two Lords Strange of Knockin so recently deceased. An entry in the Close Rolls throws some further light on this matter, and renders it probable that Hastang's tenure of Middle had been acquired by lease or purchase. By deed, dated June 25, 1310, Thomas, son of John Hastang, and John, son of Robert de Felton, acknowledged that they owed to John le Strange, lord of Knockin, 300 marks, to be levied in default on his lands in the counties of Salop, Stafford, and Warwick.⁴ Eyton then cites a charter of December 3, 1329, which shows that Middle had then reverted to a certain John le Strange, whom, however, he is unable to identify. By this charter Edward III allows 'his beloved valet, John le Strange,' to have view of frankpledge over his tenants of Medle, with other profits and privileges in the manor.⁵ By a charter dated a year earlier, viz. on November 14, 1328, Edward III had granted by special grace to John Lestraunge, the King's yeoman, and his heirs, the right of free warren in all their desmesne lands in Mudle, Salop.⁶ We have seen John le Strange of Blackmere several times designated as the King's valet or yeoman, so I should have thought it safe to accept him as the individual who, by some means or other, was in possession of Middle in 1329, if it were not that the name of John le Strange of Middle occurs, as we shall see, in conjunction with John of Knockin and John of Blackmere in a document cited below. It is evident, therefore, that Middle was for some years in possession of a separate branch of the family. Mention occurs in the Papal Letters about twenty years later of Edward le Strange of Middle. Henry Earl of Lancaster wrote to Pope Clement VI in 1348 to signify that—

¹ *C.F.R.*, iv. 47, 52, 108.

² *Supra*, pp. 28, 33, 121, 210.

³ x. 68.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1037-1313, p. 268.

⁵ *C. Ch. R.*, iv. 136-7.

⁶ *Ibid.* vi. 94.

his knight Robert Corbet, who was rich and powerful, by reason of his great liberality in marrying his sons and daughters, is now come to want, and has still left unmarried an elegant and fair daughter, Amice, whom he, now labouring under perpetual infirmity, purposes to marry to the noble and powerful Edward Le Straunge of Myrdel, donsel, who is related to her in the fourth degree of kindred ; the Earl therefore prays that a dispensation may be granted for Edward and Amice to marry.¹

A mandate was accordingly directed to the Bishop of Lichfield to grant a dispensation, if the facts are as stated.² I have already shown³ that Robert Corbet of Moreton had married Elizabeth, daughter of Fulk le Strange of Blackmere, seneschal of Aquitaine, who also seem to have been related in the fourth degree. Eyton points out that in 1383 the manor of Middle had reverted once more to the elder line, viz. to John le Strange (VIII) of Knockin, the right heir of the former lords of Middle.⁴

John le Strange of Blackmere was summoned to Parliament from September 6, 1330, to April 20, 1343, by writs directed to him simply '*Johanni Le Strange*,' and up to March 10, 1349, by writs directed '*Johanni Le Strange de Blackmere*.'⁵ In the year 1332 he was twice appointed, namely, on March 21 and on November 9, one of six keepers of the county of Salop, to put a stop to the lawlessness then prevailing.⁶ A grant of special grace was made to him and his heirs on January 30, 1333, of free warren in all their demesne lands of Whitchurch, Corfham, Wrockwardine, Sutton, Betton, Longnor, and Cheswardine, co. Salop ; Chawton, co. Hants ; Badgworth, co. Gloucester ; and Merbury, co. Chester.⁷ He and the other keepers of Salop received special orders, on February 4, 1333, not to do anything to the prejudice of William fitz Waryn, keeper of the lordship of Montgomery.⁸ On March 21, 1333, he was summoned '*equis et armis*' to Newcastle-on-Tyne to repel the invasion of the Scots.⁹ An order to the treasury of February 26, 1334, directs that John le Strange is to have respite for £86 4s. 8½d., due to the King for his lands and marriage.¹⁰

¹ *Cal. of Pet. to Pope*, 1342-1419, i. 133.

² *Ibid.* iii. 302. ³ *Supra*, p. 302.

⁴ *Collect. Top. et Gen.*, v. 180-1.

⁵ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 271.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1330-1334, pp. 294, 297, 348.

⁷ *C. Ch. R.*, iv. 292.

⁸ *C. Cl. R.*, 1337-1339, p. 88.

⁹ *Rot. Claus.*, 7, Edw. III, p. 1, m. 19, d.

¹⁰ *C. Cl. R.*, 1333-1337, p. 201.

A deed in French preserved at the Record Office, dated July 27, 1334, witnesses that whereas Sir John le Strange has brought an '*assize of novel disseisin*' against Richard de Hangelton for having disseised him of 300 acres of wood in Chawton forest (Hampshire), and two pieces of land in Kateryngton, at the Earl of Arundel's request it is agreed that Richard will surrender the said wood and lands to Sir John for ever. Richard will only claim '*housebote*' and '*heybote*' for the tenement which he inherited in Kateryngton, to be taken in the part of the wood called *Estrenche*, and by view of Sir John's bailiffs, with common for his beasts in the said wood.¹

The Scottish Rolls for this period contain several entries concerning John of Blackmere. King Edward wrote from Roxburgh on December 24, 1334, to his lieges in the different counties of England to come to him with horses and arms, as the Scots had levied war upon him; among those summoned from Shropshire were no less than three John le Stranges, viz. :

Johannes le Straunge de Knokyn.

Johannes le Straunge de Whitchurche.

*Johannes le Straunge de Midlee.*²

Apparently, therefore, there was a John of Middle separate and distinct from John of Blackmere, but I am at a loss to identify him. His name does not occur again in the other summonses, but considerable doubt is thrown upon the accuracy of these entries in the Rolls when we come to face the fact that, in the year 1334, there was no John le Strange of Knockin alive; John, the third baron of that line, died in 1323, and was succeeded by his brother Roger, fourth baron, who lived until 1349. John of Knockin and John of Blackmere were ordered, on March 27, 1335, to come with horses and arms to Newcastle for the expedition against the Scots,³ but on April 1 were held excused for not coming.⁴ A year later, namely, on August 24, 1336, John of Blackmere was summoned to Nottingham to treat of peace with the King of France and David de Brus.⁵ There are several entries in the Patent Rolls

¹ P.R.O. Ancient Deeds, B, 3481.

² *Ibid.* i. 332b, 333a.

³ Rot. Claus., 10 Edw. III, m. 16, d.

² *Rot. Scot.*, i. 307a.

⁴ *Ibid.* i. 333b.

of his having been placed on commissions of *Oyer and Terminer* at this period.

In 1338 John of Middle turns up again. A grant of August 2 of that year confers on him the custody of the castle of Criccieth in North Wales during pleasure, with the accustomed yearly fee for custody at the King's exchequer at Carnarvon.¹

On November 30, 1338, John le Strange, whom I take to be the lord of Blackmere, was prohibited, under pain of forfeiture, from making any assemblies of armed men, by reason of dissensions between John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, and Ralph de Wylynton of the one part, and John le Strange of the other, as the King learns that, by reason of their dissensions, the Earl and Ralph, and James and John gather armed men and go to the manor of Beyton, co. Wilts, to meet in warlike fashion: all who disobey are to be imprisoned.²

The Close Rolls of February 14, 1339, contain an acknowledgment by Ralph de Wylynton that he owes to James de Audley and John le Strange a thousand marks, with the note 'cancelled on payment.'³ In another entry of February 22 Ralph de Wylynton, knight, acknowledges that he owes to James de Audley and John le Strange of Blackmere £400; this also is noted as 'cancelled on payment'; it is followed by another entry of the same date, in which John le Strange acknowledges that he owes Ralph de Wylynton £400; this is not cancelled.⁴

Rymer's 'Fœdera' give the wording of a Commission of Array of February 16, 1339:

q'ennemys Lestranges terres sont en flote sur meer a grant force de gentz de armes,
et a grant nombre de grosses niefs et de galeyes, prestz d'arriver en Engleterre.

Ricardo comiti Arundell'.
Jacobo d'Audele.
Johanni Lestraunge.
Johanni de Leybourne.
Rogerio Lestraunge:

}

In Com' Salop de lv hominibus
ad arma, ccxx hominibus
armatis, et ccxx sagittis.⁵

By a patent of April 1, 1339, John le Strange of Blackmere

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1338-1340, p. 121.

³ *Ibid.* p. 87.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 95.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1339-1341, p. 573.

⁵ *Fœdera*, ii. pt. 2, 1070.

was associated with others to keep the peace in the county of Salop.¹ He was appointed with three others on August 24, 1340, on the commission for Salop as taxer of the ninth of sheaves, lambs, &c.² On the same day he was ordered to send his men to Newcastle, and to set out thence to Stirling Castle, the siege of which the Scotch are expected to renew.³

On December 20, 1342, le Strange was summoned to be at Portsmouth ready to sail for France with the following men on March 1 next 'A mons' Johan Lestraunge de Blankmonstier, pur xx hommes d'armes. xx archers.'⁴

A grant was made on January 28, 1344, to John, son of John Lestraunge of Blaunkmonster, King's clerk, of the free chapel of St. Michael, within the castle of Shrewsbury, void by the resignation of Adam de Overton.⁵ He had difficulties almost immediately about his tithes, as a commission was issued on February 16 following to make inquiry concerning the petition of John, son of John le Strange of Whitchurch, parson of the King's free chapel of St. Michael in the castle at Shrewsbury, showing that, whereas he and his predecessors time out of mind, in right of their chapel, have had all manner of tithes arising from certain lands of those towns, he is now hindered by Lewis de Cherleton and Philip ap Howel, portioners of the church of Pontesbury, who claim the said tithes.⁶ I am unable to fit this John, the chaplain, into the pedigree. He cannot have been the son of the second baron, as the latter's son of that name became the fourth baron, and John, son of the last named, succeeded his father as fifth baron. Who then was he?

In July 1345 King Edward sailed for Flanders with the object of gaining the earldom of that province for his son Edward. He endeavoured to avail himself of the long-standing discontent between the count and the great trading towns of Flanders, but his chief partisan, Jacob van Artevelde, being killed in a popular tumult at Ghent, the King abandoned the attempt and returned to England on July 17. On the 4th of that month John le Strange

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1338-1340, p. 279.

³ *Rot. Scot.*, i. 601a.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1343-1345, p. 188.

² *C.P.R.*, 1340-1343, p. 26.

⁴ *Rot. Franc.*, 16 Edw. III, m. 11.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 280.

had been summoned '*equis et armis*' to be ready to cross the sea with the King, he is addressed '*Johanni Lestraunge baneretto de Com' Salop.*'¹ Whether he went on this short expedition to Flanders does not appear. At all events he was in England in the autumn, as the Patent Rolls of November 20 contain a commission, addressed to him and his cousin Roger of Knockin, to arrest Adam de Peshale, a common malefactor, dead or alive, who has broken his attachment and escaped;² another commission was issued on the same day to Robert de Ferrariis and John Lestraunge to make inquisition concerning the trespasses and oppressions committed by the said Adam.³ Evidence of the influence possessed by John le Strange at this period exists in many entries in the Patent Rolls, showing that he procured charters of pardon for divers people.

We now come to the brilliant campaign of 1346, which culminated in the victory of Crecy and the siege and capture of Calais, in both of which events le Strange of Blackmere took a part. The lists of those who served therein have been exhaustively worked out from the Public Records by General Wrottesley in his monograph on the campaign,⁴ and to this volume I owe the references to the original authorities relating to the four le Stranges who served in the royal army—viz. John, second Lord Strange of Blackmere; Roger, fourth Lord Strange of Knockin; John, the King's sergeant, probably a member of the Norfolk branch of the family settled at Fransham; and a Thomas le Strange, of whom I know nothing.

The first writs for the expedition were issued on August 28, 1345; by that for Shropshire John le Strange of Blackmere, John de Leyburne, his kinsman,⁵ and the Sheriff were appointed Commissioners of Array, and directed to choose 200 archers in that county, to provide them with bows, arrows, and other arms, and to cause them to be brought to Portsmouth, so that they might be there at three weeks from Michaelmas.⁶

¹ Rot. Franc., 19 Edw. III, m. 4.

² C.P.R., 1345-1348, p. 34.

³ *Ibid.* p. 35.

⁴ *Crecy and Calais, from the Public Records*, by Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley, 1898.

⁵ See p. 248.

⁶ French Roll, 19 Edw. III, part 2.

King Edward landed at La Hougue, near Cherbourg, on July 12, 1346, and marched through Bayeux and Caen towards the Seine; his army was formed into three divisions, the first under the Prince of Wales, the second under the Earls of Northampton and Arundel, while the third was commanded by the King himself. Next in rank to the commanders of these divisions came the earls and bannerets. In earlier days a banneret became so by birth or estate, and, as such, was entitled to display his own banner in the field, and the title was often used to designate an intermediate grade higher than that of simple knight; but by this time it had become a military title, implying the command of a corps (of varying size) of men-at-arms. This 'brigading' of the cavalry under bannerets was one of the advances of military science of the time. The high officers of Edward II's Court had extra allowances if bannerets, and many of these were summoned to Parliament, and were what we should call barons or peers. Edward III's bannerets included quite humble knights, chosen for their military proficiency. They, in their turn, had in their retinue knights and esquires, who, with the earls and bannerets, were designated men-at-arms, and fought in complete armour, mounted on heavy horses (*destriers*). Each knight would bring with him *Hobelars*, lightly armed with lance and sword, and less expensive equipment in horses and armour, but their weapons were good enough to enable them to fight along with the cavalry. If armed with bows they were 'mounted archers,' and fought with the infantry, who were brigaded separately under *centenarii* and *vintenarii*, even if they came in a knight's train.

John le Strange, lord of Blackmere, then about forty years of age, fought in the second division in the retinue of the Earl of Arundel. Before he started he procured letters of protection, dated June 6, 1346,¹ and, two days later, similar letters were granted to his Herefordshire neighbour, Walter de Baskerville, who went out with him.² His retinue, when he landed at La

¹ French Roll, 20 Edw. III.

² *Ibid.*, 21 Edw. III, pt. i.

Hougue, consisted of the following knights and esquires, ten in number :

Brian de Cornwayle.
Walter de Baskerville.
Nicholas de Huggefurd.
Philip de Penynnton.
John de Lodelowe.

Hamon le Strange [probably his younger brother].
Richard de Sondford.
Thomas de Oldynton.
Richard de Wetenale.
Vivian de Staundon.¹

After the defeat of the French army at Crecy, near Abbeville, on August 26, Edward sat down before Calais, the siege of which lasted nearly a year, from September 1346 to August 1347. A general pardon was granted on September 4, 1346, to 'John Lestraunge of Blaunkmonstier' for his good service in the war of France;² and on November 16 of the same year a pardon was granted to him for all homicides, felonies, &c., perpetrated before September 4 last, on condition that he does not withdraw from the King's service without permission; similar pardons were also accorded, at his instance, to some of his suite.³ After they had returned to England those landowners who had served through the campaign were exonerated from the assessment on their lands for finding men-at-arms, hobelars, and archers for the King's service; the writs of exoneration were entered on the Memoranda Rolls of Exchequer. The writ for this purpose issued to John le Strange on December 1, 1351, states that he had crossed in the retinue of Richard, Earl of Arundel, in 20 Edward III, and had served at the battle of Crecy, and at the siege of Calais.⁴ A similar exoneration was granted to 'Sir Brian de Cornwaille, who had served continuously in the retinue of Sir John Lestraunge from the date of the passage to Hogges in Normandy, until the King's return to England.'⁵ A general pardon for his good services abroad was also granted, on the testimony of Sir John le Strange, to the following members of his suite.

¹ French Roll, part ii.

² *C.P.R.*, 1345-1348, p. 507.

³ Norman Roll, 20 Edw. III.

⁴ Norman Roll, 20 Edw. III, and Mem. Roll, King's Remembrancer, 28 Edw. III.

⁵ Mem. Roll, King's Remembrancer, 27 Edw. III.

William, son of Hugh de Leghes, of Calverhale.
 Henry le Webbe, of Blaunkmoustier.
 Thomas, son of Thomas Geffrey, and
 Hugh Pebbe, of Dudlebury.' ¹

In the year 1347 John le Strange made an arrangement for the marriage of his eldest son, Fulk, with Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph, baron, and afterwards first Earl of Stafford, who was apparently of very tender years; an indenture of March 12, enrolled in the Close Rolls,² recites that it is agreed

between Sir Ralph, Baron of Stafford, and Sir John Lestraunge of Whitchirche, that Fouke, John's son, shall marry Elizabeth, Ralph's daughter, and shall enfeoff Fouke and Elizabeth with 200 marks of land in Salop and Chester, of lands which John holds, whether jointly with Enkarette his wife, or alone; Fouke and Elizabeth, after they are married, shall remain at John's charge until Elizabeth is of the age of thirteen, and John shall have ward of the 200 marks of land until Elizabeth shall reach that age.

On the same day a licence was granted, at the request of Ralph, baron of Stafford, and for 100s. for John Lestraunge of Whitchurch and Ankaretta his wife to enfeoff certain persons in certain manors in Salop, to be regranted by them to John and Ankaretta, with remainders to Fulk their son, and heirs begotten by him of Elizabeth, daughter of the baron of Stafford, and to the right heirs of John.³

A commission of *Oyer and Terminer* was issued to John and six others on July 26, 1348, touching the counterfeiters of the King's sterlings.⁴

Among the petitions to Pope Clement VI is one from John le Strange, baron, and several others and their wives, for plenary remission at the hour of death; it was granted at Avignon on November 13, 1348.⁵ He died within a few months of receiving this, namely, on July 20, 1349. The inquisition on his death shows that he held the following lands: ⁶

¹ Norman Roll, 20 Edw. III.

² *C. Cl. R.*, 1346-1349, p. 246.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1345-1348, p. 258.

⁴ *Ibid.* 1348-1350, p. 170.

⁵ *Cal. of Pet. to Pope*, 1342-1419, i. 142.

⁶ P.R.O. Chancery inq., File 98 (old No. part i., No. 78).

John le Strange of Whitchurch, Badgeworth, Gloucestershire,— $\frac{1}{2}$ of manor.
Broughton, Wilts— $\frac{1}{2}$ of a manor as of parcel of the barony of Castle Combe.

Chawton, Hampshire.	}	Salop.
Whitchurch, manor extended.		
Doddington, „		
Corfham, „		
Sutton, hamlet, extended.		
La Peyry, near Corfham, lands and tenements		

FEES.

Bromcroft, hamlet.	}	Salop.
Diddlebury, „		
Norton, „		
Brighe, „		
Peaton, „		

All the above are held of the manor of Corfham.

John's heir was his son Fulk, who was nineteen years of age at the time of his father's death. Ankaret, John's widow, received on October 10, 1350, a grant of exoneration from the assessment to find men-at-arms, hobelars, and archers, because her husband had served in the retinue of Richard, Earl of Arundel, until the King's return to England.¹ Besides their sons Fulk and John, who carried on the direct line, John and Ankaret le Strange had two other children: a daughter, Eleanor, who married Reginald, second Lord Grey de Ruthin, who died July 1388;² and Hamon, whom we have seen as a follower of his brother in the Crecy campaign,³ and whose name occurs in the Patent Rolls, in a pardon for a homicide obtained for him by his sister on August 5, 1381.⁴

Fulk, third Lord Strange of Blackmere, was never summoned to Parliament, as he died under age on August 31, 1349, only five weeks after his father; he left no issue, and was succeeded by his brother John, then of the age of seventeen years and thirty

¹ Mem. Roll, King's Remembrancer, 25 Edw. iii.

² Pedigree at Hunstanton [O. D. 5]; *Complete Peerage*, iv. 105.

³ *Supra*, p. 315.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1381-1385, p. 33.

weeks.¹ The Shropshire inquisition says that he died on September 6, 1349, and that, in addition to other manors, he and his wife Elizabeth, who survived him, held jointly the manor of Wrockwardine in chief.² The wardship of his lands was granted on October 13 to Richard, Earl of Arundel.³ The escheator for Salop was directed, on October 22, 1349, to take the fealty of Elizabeth, late the wife of Fulk, and not to intermeddle further with the manor of Wrockwardine, as the King has learnt by inquisition that Fulk and Elizabeth held the premises jointly at Fulk's death by fine levied in the King's Court.⁴ A moiety of the manor of Badgeworth, co. Gloucester, was assigned in dower to Elizabeth, and also a moiety of the manor of Broughton, co. Wilts, with 5 marks yearly of the manor of Corfham, co. Salop.⁵ The escheator for Salop was ordered to take the fealty of Fulk's mother Ankaret, widow of John, second Lord Strange of Blackmere, and to restore to her the manors of Whitchurch and Doddington, as John and Ankaret held them jointly for their lives by fine duly levied.⁶ The escheator for the county of Southampton was told not to intermeddle further with the manor of Chawton as John le Strange held it for life by fine levied, with remainder to his son Fulk, and his heirs by Elizabeth his wife.⁷

John, who succeeded as fourth Lord Strange of Blackmere, was born on January 13, 1332, as is mentioned in the Shropshire inquisition on the death of his brother Fulk,⁸ and was consequently seventeen years old. He had livery of his lands in 1354,⁹ and in that year, though only just of age, his name appears as one of the barons who assented to the nomination of proxies for treating with the ambassadors of France before the new Pope, Innocent VI, at Avignon, for the settlement of all matters in dispute.¹⁰ He married, before 1354, Mary, the daughter of Richard (fitz Alan), Earl of Arundel, by his first wife, Isabel, daughter of Hugh, Lord Despencer.¹¹ In the Commission of Array, issued to the several

¹ P.R.O. Chanc. Inq., File 98 (old No. part i., No. 79).

² *Ibid.*

³ C.P.R., 1348-1350, p. 406.

⁴ C. Cl. R., 1349-1354, p. 122.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 120.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 50.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 53.

⁸ Chanc. Inq., File 98 (old No. part i., 79).

⁹ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 271.

¹⁰ *Fœdera*, iii. pt. i. 285.

¹¹ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 271.

counties on November 16, 1359, for the war with France, the first name mentioned for Salop is '*Johanni Straunge de Blakemere*,'¹ and he was in the Commission of the Peace for that county, issued on March 20, 1361.² He appears to have been summoned to Parliament once only, viz. on April 3, 1360.³ John le Strange (IV) died on May 12, 1361, leaving as his son and heir a young boy, who is described in the Hampshire inquisition as 'John, son of the said John, son of John, of the age of six years and more.'⁴ The 'Complete Peerage' states that Mary le Strange died in the same year as her husband John, but this is an error, for she survived him for thirty-five years. An inquisition '*ad quod damnum*' was taken at Ludlow on December 22, 1363, and another at Bridgnorth on March 3, 1364, as to a grant to Mary, late wife of John le Strange of Whitchurch, of view of frankpledge in her manors of Sutton-Madock and Brockton; in each case the jury found that the King would lose 4s. per annum if such grant were made.⁵ She appears to have been known for the rest of her life as '*the lady of Corfham*'; among the petitions to the Pope is one from Mary le Straunge, lady of Corfham, widow, and sister of the Earl of Arundel, asking for plenary remission at the hour of death; it was granted by Urban V on April 9, 1364.⁶ On March 20, 1367, John de Halle was instituted to the advowson of Culmington, on the presentation of Mary le Strange, lady of Corfham.⁷ At the inquisitions held on her death in 1396 it was found that she held in Wiltshire a moiety of the manor of Ashton, and a moiety of the advowson of Codford; while in Salop she held the manor of Corfham, of which a full extent is given, and also that of Sutton-Madock with the park (*haia*) of Ernestre, and the chace of Cliva; that she died on August 29, and that Ankaretta, late the wife of Richard Talbot, knight, daughter of John le Strange and Mary, who is of the age of thirty-four and more, is their next heir.⁸

¹ Rot. Pat., 33 Edw. III, m. 7, d.

² C.P.R., 1361-1364, p. 64.

³ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 271.

⁴ P.R.O., Chanc. Inq., 35 Edw. III, File 165, old No. 67.

⁵ P.R.O., Chanc. Inq., a.Q.D., 37 Edw. III, File 347 (7).

⁶ *Cal. Pet. to Pope*, 1342-1419, ii. 484.

⁷ Eyton, v. 186.

⁸ P.R.O., Chanc. Inq. Ric. II, File 95 (48).

Ankaret, the widow of John (II), Lord Strange of Blackmere, died on October 8, 1361.¹ On February 12 of the following year the King gave a grant to his daughter Isabel of £146 13s. 4d. out of the farm of 400 marks yearly paid by Richard, Earl of Arundel, for the wardship of the lands in Hampshire and Salop, which Ankareta, late the wife of John le Strange of Blackmere, held in chief of the inheritance of her grandson John during his nonage.² On June 5, 1362, the King granted to Richard, Earl of Arundel, that, whereas he had lately had committed to him the wardship of the lands which Ankaret held during the nonage of her grandson John, the said earl should have the marriage of the said John, and so from heir to heir.³ Subsequent to the King's grant of February 12, 1362, to his daughter Isabel, she had married Ingelram, Sire de Coucy, who had been created Earl of Bedford; the £146 13s. 4d. which the Earl of Arundel ought to have paid to Isabel out of the issues of Ankaret's lands, of which he held the wardship, had fallen into arrear, so a mandate was issued on October 8, 1366, directing the earl to pay up the arrears and to continue to pay the said sum yearly until the lawful age of Ankaret's grandson, John le Strange.⁴

Elizabeth (Stafford), widow of Fulk, third Lord Strange of Blackmere, had married before 1360 John, Lord de Ferrers, who died in 1367; on June 24 of that year the escheator of Wilts was ordered not to intermeddle further with the manor of Broughton, taken into the King's hand by the death of John de Ferrers, delivering to Elizabeth, late his wife, any issues thereof taken; as the King has learnt by inquisition that the said John held that manor in right of the said Elizabeth, as jointly enfeoffed with Fulk le Strange, her first husband, of the gift of John le Strange, father of the said Fulk.⁵ Elizabeth married, thirdly, Reginald, Lord Cobham, and died August 7, 1376.⁶

John, fifth Lord Strange of Blackmere, while still a minor, married Isabel, fifth daughter of Thomas (Beauchamp), Earl of Warwick. He was never summoned to Parliament, but died on

¹ P.R.O., Chanc. Inq. Edw. III, File 165 (66).

² C.P.R., 1361-1364, p. 179.

³ *Ibid.* 226.

⁴ C. Cl. R., 1364-1368, p. 246.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 342.

⁶ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 271.

August 3, 1375, before attaining his majority, and left no male heirs. The inquest on his death shows that he held the manors of Chawton in Hampshire, and Whitchurch, Doddington, Betton-Strange, and Cheswardine in Salop.¹ An agreement was entered into early in 1376 between the attorneys of Richard, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, appointed to deliver dower to Isabel, late the wife of John le Strange of Blackmere, the Earl's nephew, and the attorneys of Isabel, appointed to receive the said dower out of all John's inheritance liable thereto—viz. that Isabel shall have as dower the manors of Chawton and Cheswardine, and 50 marks of rent yearly out of the manors of Blackmere and Doddington. The Earl of Arundel died before the arrangement could be confirmed, viz., on January 24, and was succeeded by his son, also named Richard; in consequence the following note [original in Latin] was written underneath the document: 'This agreement [*supplicatio*] was delivered with the assent of Richard, now Earl of Arundel, and of the other executors of the will of Richard, the late Earl of Arundel, for the delivery of the aforesaid dowry to the same Isabel.'²

On the death of John, fifth Lord Strange of Blackmere, in 1375, that barony descended to his only daughter, Elizabeth, an infant of one year of age. Her marriage had been given by Edward III, shortly before his death, to the Duke of Lancaster (John of Gaunt), who, on receiving an equivalent from Richard II, granted the marriage to Thomas de Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, and afterwards Duke of Norfolk.³ On February 20, 1383, Thomas, who was himself a minor, obtained from the King a grant of all his lands in the King's hands, and of his own marriage, if he marry Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Lord le Strange of Blackmere, to whom he was affianced before his lands came into the King's hands.⁴ His marriage contract with Elizabeth was dated March 15, 1383,⁵ but she died *s.p.* a few months later, on August 23, in her tenth year.⁶ She was succeeded in the barony

¹ P.R.O., Chanc. Inq. Edw. III, File 250 (8).

² P.R.O., Ancient Deeds, C, 3059.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 229.

⁶ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 272.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1381-1385, p. 269.

⁵ P.R.O. Rot. Pat., 6 Ric. II, No. 7.

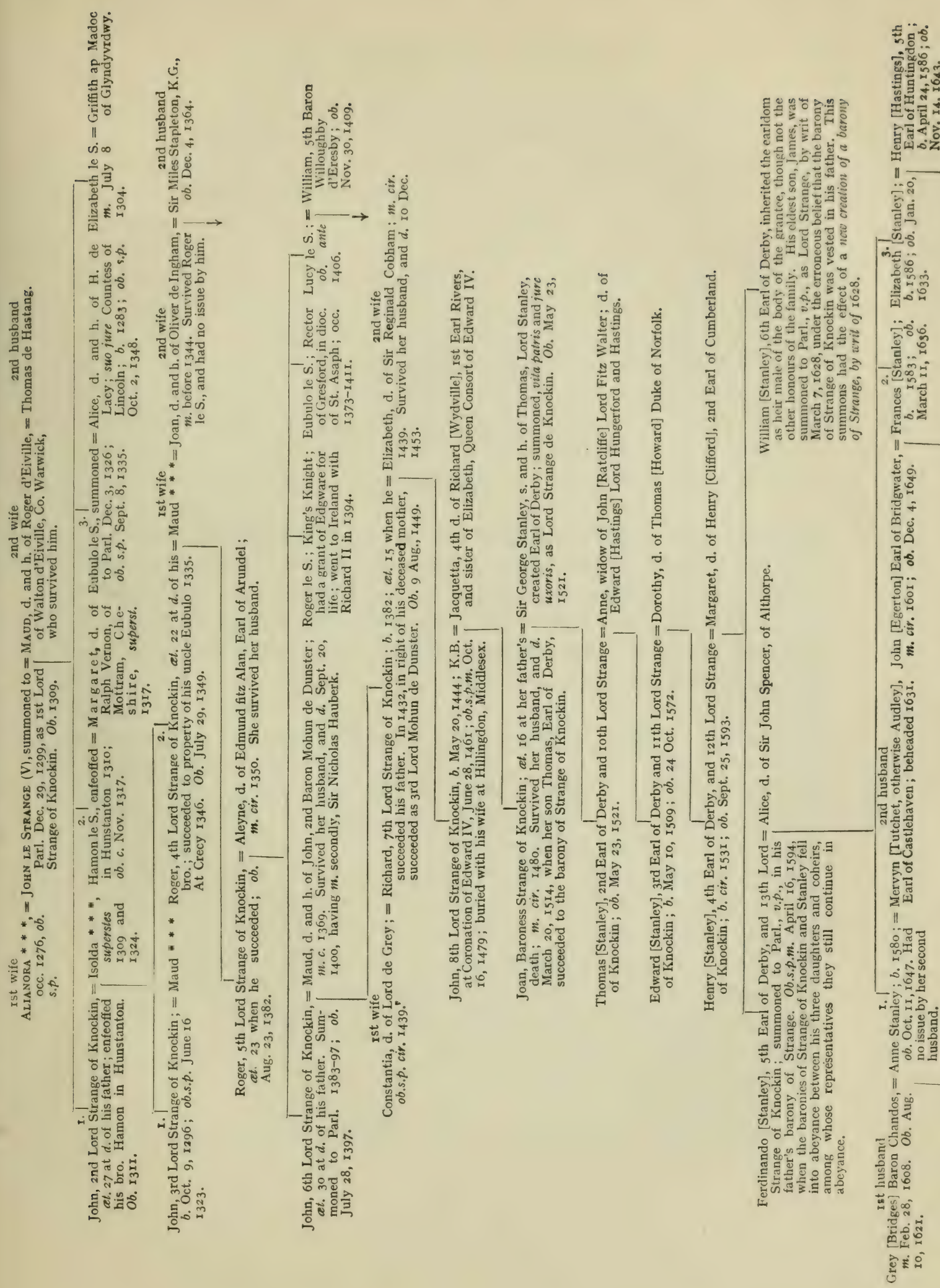
by her aunt, Ankaret, only sister of John, the fifth lord, she being then of the age of twenty-two years, and wife of Sir Richard Talbot, son and heir of Gilbert, third Lord Talbot; Richard was summoned to Parliament, *jure uxoris*, from 1383 to 1387, as Lord Talbot de Blackmere; he died September 7, 1396, and his widow, Ankaret, married secondly Thomas Nevill, Lord Furnivall. By her first husband she had a son, Gilbert, who, at the death of his father on September 7, 1396, was aged thirteen and became Lord Talbot; on the death of his mother Ankaret on May 23, 1413, Gilbert further succeeded her as the eighth holder of the barony of Strange of Blackmere. He died on October 19, 1419, leaving an only daughter, Ankaret, of the age of two years, who inherited both titles, but died two years later, on December 13, 1421. The barony thereupon reverted to her uncle, John Talbot, her father's only brother, who, having married Maud, *suo jure* Baroness Furnivall, had been summoned to Parliament in that barony in 1409; in 1421 he succeeded his niece in the baronies of Strange of Blackmere and of Talbot, both, however, being of later creation than that of Furnivall [1295], in right of which he had already been summoned. In 1442 he was created Earl of Shrewsbury in reward for his long and glorious military services in France under Henry V. The barony of Strange of Blackmere is mentioned by Shakespeare as one of the many titles of the great earl, in the scene describing his death at the battle of Chastillon, near Bordeaux, on July 17, 1453:

‘ Lord Strange of Blackmere, Lord Verdun of Alton,’¹

The three baronies became merged in the earldom, with which dignity they continued united for nearly two hundred years, ultimately falling into abeyance among the co-heirs of Gilbert Talbot, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, who died without male issue on May 8, 1616.²

¹ *I Henry VI*, iv. 7. 65.

² *Complete Peerage*, iii. 406; vii. 136, 271, 359.



CHAPTER IX

LE STRANGE OF KNOCKIN

1311-1514

BEFORE proceeding with the history of the Hunstanton line it will be as well to give, in a condensed form, some short account of the seven holders of the barony of Knockin, from the third Lord Strange until that title became finally merged in the earldom of Derby by the marriage of Joan, last Baroness Strange of Knockin, with the heir of the Stanleys, *c.* 1482.

JOHN, THIRD LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN, 1311-1323.

The inquisition on the death of John, the second lord, shows that his son and heir was only fourteen years of age on his father's death, having been born on October 9, 1296.¹ His father, as we have seen,² died very early in 1311, and the son was summoned to Parliament in August of that year, and several times again during his minority.³ He was certified in 1316 as lord of the township of Ness le Estraunge, or Ness Magna, Salop,⁴ and of Middleton, co. Cambridge; also as holding the lordship of Grendon, co. Stafford.⁵ He was noticed, in an inquisition of January 8, 1318, as being a minor in the King's wardship.⁶

John le Strange made proof of age on August 4, 1320, when

¹ Inq. C. Edw. II, File 20 (15).

³ *Parl. Writs for* 1311-1313.

⁵ *Feudal Aids*, 1284, 1431, v. 14.

² *Supra*, p. 265.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 1316.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. P.M.* VI. p. 73, No. 113.

the escheator was ordered to cause him to have seisin of his father's lands.¹ On February 15, 1322, he was commanded to muster and array the knights of the lordship of Knockin,² but, unlike the rest of his family, John remained in 1322 true to the policy which every member of it had originally adopted, when Fulk and the rest made their peace with the King after 1317-18; John disobeyed the royal writ to fight against Lancaster, and led the Knockin contingent to the Lancastrian army. He and Earl Humphrey of Hereford were among the few Marcher chieftains who still fought against the King at Boroughbridge. A writ of that year mentions that 'Sire Johan Lestraunge' was a 'bacheler' in arms against the King, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Boroughbridge on March 17, 1322, when the Earl of Lancaster was also captured, and was executed a few days afterwards.³

By a deed dated at Knockin on March 21, 1322, John le Strange gave to Emeric Pauncefot, as feoffee in trust, two-thirds of his manor of Ness, with reversion of the other third, held in dower by Isolda, his mother. By a later deed Pauncefot granted the same to John le Strange and his wife Maud, to hold to them and their heirs.⁴

John followed the example of his ancestors in making eleemosynary gifts to Haughmond; on July 19, 1322, he released to that abbey the vivary of Wilcote;⁵ and, on April 20, 1323, under the designation of 'Johannes Extraneus septimus de Knokyn, dominus de Nesse,' he granted to it the '*alnetum*' [alder wood] near the *Hogh*, with certain lands in Kynton.⁶

The inquisition held at Salop on the death of John le Strange (VII) bears date June 16, 1323. It mentions that his heir was his brother Roger, aged twenty-two on August 15 preceding, but does not give the date of John's death; the omission is however supplied by a second inquisition, held by writ of certiorari, on the petition of Maud, late the wife of the said John, showing that she was in joint seisin with him of two parts of the

¹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1318-1323, p. 250.

² *Parl. Writs, Edw. II*, vol. ii. part 2, p. 200.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *C.I.P.M.*, *Edw. II*, vi. 272, No. 453; Eyton, x. 280.

⁵ Register of Haughmond in B.M. Harl. MSS. 446, fo. 19.

⁶ *Ibid.* fo. 18.

manor of Ness until the day of his death, viz. August 28, 1323.¹ On April 1 following Maud obtained a pardon, by fine of five marks, for acquiring (as has been mentioned above), together with her husband John le Strange, two parts of the manor of Ness from Emery Pauncefot, to hold in tail, with remainder to the right heirs of John.²

ROGER, FOURTH LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN, 1323-1349.

Roger, as we have just seen, was nearly twenty-three when he succeeded his brother. He had already begun active service, as the Patent Rolls show that he had letters of protection on January 15, 1322, while staying with Peter de Monteforti in the Marches of Wales on the King's service.³ He too followed the family tradition of enlarging the possessions of their favourite abbey; between 1223 and 1225 he quitclaimed to Haughmond all his right to Thorneford Mill and the fishery of Bassmere, in Middle, which his father had formerly mortgaged to the abbey.⁴ On August 9, 1328, Roger released to the abbey the vivary or mill of Wilcott,⁵ and on the same day confirmed to it his father's charter of the chapel of Knockin,⁶ and his father's release of the rent of two wethers (*multones*) payable at Caldecote.⁷ On May 12, 1342, he had a licence for the alienation in mortmain to the abbot and convent of the advowson of Hanmer; ⁸ as '*Seigneur de Knokyn et d'Ellesmere*' he made an ample confirmation on June 5, 1343, of the rights of the abbot within the lordship of Ellesmere.⁹ On the death of his uncle, Eubulo le Strange, in 1335, Roger, as has been mentioned in a previous chapter,¹⁰ succeeded to such property as Eubulo held in his own right, but not to that which he held in right of his wife Alice, who survived him. It is difficult to make out, from the inquest on Eubulo, exactly which lands passed to Roger, but he certainly inherited a messuage in Holborn,¹¹ and licence was granted on September 27, 1336, to Hugh de

¹ *C.I.P.M., Edw. II*, iv. 272, No. 453.

³ *Ibid.* p. 67.

⁴ Eyton, x. 78.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 376.

⁹ Eyton, x. 252.

¹⁰ *Supra*, p. 281.

² *C.P.R.*, 1321-1324, iv. 405.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 286.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 375.

⁸ *C.P.R.*, 1340-1343, p. 429.

¹¹ *C.P.R.*, 1476-1485, p. 45.

Freyne and Alice his wife (Eubulo's widow), whom he had just married, to settle the castle of Clifford, and the manors of Glasbury, Colham, Edgware, &c., with remainder to Roger le Strange of Knockin and his heirs.¹ Matters, however, were not arranged amicably between Alice and her nephew, and it was necessary to issue a commission of *Oyer and Terminer* on May 4, 1337, on the complaint of the Countess of Lincoln that Roger, John de Lacy, knight, Richard *Rogeres chaumberleyn Lestraunge of Knokyn*, and others, broke her castle of Bolingbroke, imprisoned her there, took away twenty of her horses, worth £200, carried away her goods, and assaulted her men and servants.² The quarrel was made up before long, and on June 20, 1337, Alice obtained licence to grant to Roger her life estate in the manors of Ellesmere and Overton Madok, which she held by grant of the King to her and Eubulo.³

Roger Lord Strange held the office of steward to Richard, Earl of Arundel, who had succeeded to the vast estates of the family of Warenne on the death of his maternal uncle, John, Earl of Surrey and Sussex.⁴ In 1342, after the French had burnt Portsmouth and threatened Southampton, Roger was summoned to be at Portsmouth with ten men-at-arms and twenty archers, ready to sail for France.⁵ He was summoned to Parliament from February 25, 1342, to March 10, 1348.⁶

The name of Roger le Strange of Knockin appears among those of the great lords who displayed their banners during the campaign of Crecy in 1346,⁷ and the French Roll of 21 Edward III states that he was of the retinue of the Earl of Lancaster,⁸ and had with him William de Chetewynde of Shavington;⁹ on August 10, 1347, *i.e.* a week after the surrender of Calais, 'Roger Lestraunge of Knokyn the elder' is mentioned in the Roll as having letters of protection; apparently he had fallen ill before this, and sent for his son Roger to supply his place, as an entry in the Memoranda Roll of the King's Remembrancer of 26 Edward III, which exonerates him from assessment on his lands for finding

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1334-1338, p. 319.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1337-1339, p. 136.

⁶ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 273.

⁸ *Ibid.* p. 117.

² *Ibid.* p. 450.

⁵ *Fœdera*, ii. part 2, 1216.

⁷ Wrottesley's *Crecy and Calais*, p. 6.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 118.

³ *Ibid.* p. 465.

men-at-arms, &c., mentions that, having been detained by grievous bodily infirmity, he had sent his son 'Roger Lestraunge the younger,' who had served in the King's retinue until the King's return to England.¹ Professor Tout thinks that both these entries apply to one person, Roger the younger, and that his father did not serve at all; and, further, that neither of them ought to appear in the list of great lords who displayed their banners, because it is most unlikely that the younger Roger, who was hardly twenty years old, should have attained the military rank of a banneret. But it seems to me that the fact of their being recorded as serving in different retinues is conclusive as to two distinct persons having been present, and Wrottesley gives other instances of sons who represented fathers unable to take the field owing to age or infirmity, and expressly says that such son, as a rule, displayed his father's banner.² Roger junior had already seen foreign service as a lad of eighteen, when he accompanied his father in June 1345 under Richard Earl of Arundel on King Edward's abortive expedition to Ghent.³ 'Thomas le Straunge of Knokyn' appears, on May 18, 1347, in the French Roll of 21 Edward III, as having letters of protection; he may have been a brother of Roger the elder.⁴

This Roger was twice married. His first wife, Maud, whose surname is not recorded, is stated, in the Cambridge inquisition on his death, to have been the mother of his son and heir, Roger;⁵ the second wife was Joan, daughter and heiress of Oliver de Ingham; she is mentioned in the inquest on her father's death as being then (March 24, 1344) twenty-four years of age and married to Roger le Strange.⁶ She survived Roger, and had no issue by him. She married, secondly, Sir Miles Stapleton, K.G., who died December 4, 1364, and was buried with his wife Joan at Ingham, in Norfolk, where a brass, of which little now remains, used to exist in Blomefield's time, bearing the following inscription:

¹ Wrottesley's *Crecy and Calais*, p. 169.

² *Ibid.* p. 7.

³ Rot. Franc., 19 Edw. III, pt. 1, m. 14.

⁴ Wrottesley's *Crecy and Calais*, p. 122.

⁵ Chanc. Inq. p.m., Edw. III, File 101, No. 23.

⁶ *C.I.P.M.*, Edw. III, viii. 375.

Priez pour les almes Monseur Miles Stapleton, K.G., et dame Johanne, sa femme, fille de Monseur Olivier de Ingham, fondeurs de ceste mayson, que Dieu de leur almes eit pitee.¹

A copy of this brass, from an impression in the British Museum, taken by Craven Ord, is given in Beloe's 'Monumental Brasses of Norfolk,' Part iii.²

Eyton, in his *le Strange* pedigree, erroneously makes Joan the first wife, and Maud the second wife of Roger *le Strange*; ³ but it is clear that Joan de Ingham was the second wife, as she survived him and married again. She was dowered on September 24, 1349, with a third part of the fortalice and hundred of Ellesmere, assigned to her by the King out of the lands of her late husband Roger,⁴ and the lands of her own inheritance which they had held jointly were ordered to be restored to her.⁵

Roger died on July 29, 1349, and his heir was found to be his son Roger, then of the age of twenty-three years.⁶ The manors held by him in chief at his death were Middleton in Cambridgeshire, Bicester, Middleton, and Tew in Oxfordshire; Horbling and Sedgebrook in Lincolnshire; and the hundred and manor of Ellesmere in Salop.

LE STRANGE OF OSWESTRY.

The names of certain *le Stranges* connected with the borough of Oswestry have been mentioned before⁷ when dealing with John *le Strange* (IV) of Knockin; the following names, also connected with that town, occur during the period at present under review: ⁸

Richard L'Estrange,	occ. 1331, 1342
Richard, son of Richard,	occ. 1352
Madoc L'Estrange	„ 1341
Philip L'Estrange	„ 1342
Thomas L'Estrange	„ 1342
Roger L'Estrange	„ 1352

¹ Blomefield, ix. 324.

³ Eyton, x. 263.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 260.

⁷ *Supra*, p. 181.

² B.M. Add. MSS. 32,478, fo. 93.

⁴ *C. Cl. R.*, 1349-1354, p. 111.

⁶ Chancery Inq. p.m., Edw. III, File 101, No. 23.

⁸ *Arch. Cambr.* (2nd series), iii. 38-41.

IDA LE STRANGE.

Among Lord Middleton's MSS. at Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, is preserved an interesting letter, dated April 15, 1332, of Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III, acknowledging receipt from Ida le Strange, her damsel, of certain crowns and other jewels. They must have been of great value, for no less than five crowns are mentioned, covered with rubies, emeralds, and pearls; only one of the five had diamonds on it, and one other was surmounted with sapphires. Unfortunately there is nothing to show of which family Ida was a daughter; probably she belonged either to the Blackmere or Knockin family. I am not aware of any other mention of her elsewhere. The letter is printed in the 'Report on Lord Middleton's MSS.,' issued by the Historical MSS. Commission,¹ and is so full of details of the jeweller's art in the fourteenth century as to be worth reproduction. It runs as follows:

Ph[ilipp]e, par la grace de Dieu Reyne d'Engleterre, Dame d'Irlaunde, et Duchesse d'Aquitaine, a touz ceux qi cestes lettres verrount, saluz. Sachez nous avoir recu devers nous meismes en nostre chaumbre de nostre ch[er] damoisele Ida Lestraunge les choses souzescrites queles ele avoit de de no[us]. . . . a garde[r], c'est assavoir: une corone d'or od x. fleurs de ameraudes, une rubie en checun fleur. Item une corone d'or od x. fleurs od emeraudes et rubies od viij perles, en chescune trosche [*cluster*] une rubie en la trosche, et d'autrepart une emeraude. Item une graunde corone d'or od x. fleurs od emeraudes et rubies, od trosches de perles, et en chescune trosche viij perles et une grosse perle en milieu. Item une graunde corone d'or od viij fleurs de grosses emeraudes et grosses rubies, et une trosche de xij perles et une rubie dedeinz, et une autre trosche d'une emeraude dedeinz, et chescune trosche od un saphir survolant. Item une graunde corone d'or od grosses rubies, emeraudes, diamauntz, et grosses perles, la quele ma dame la Reyne Isabell nous d[on]a le jour de la . . . ienof l'an quart. Item une Croix d'or od grosses emeraudes, rubies, et grosses perles. Item une ceynture d'orfœverie od emeraudes, rubies, et grosses perles. De queux choses nous voloms qe l'avantdit nostre damoisele seit deschargee et quites par cestes noz lettres. En tesmoignance de queu chose, nous avoms [fetes faire cestes] lettres patentees. Don[eez] a Estaunford le xv jour d'Averill, l'an du regne nostre treschere seigneur le Roi sisme.

A note from 'Archæologia,' xxxi. 377, says that these jewels do not occur in the inventory of Queen Philippa's plate, &c., taken after 1369.

¹ P. 90.

ROGER, FIFTH LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN, 1349-1381.

Roger, fifth Lord Strange of Knockin, though only twenty-three when he succeeded his father, had already seen four years of foreign service¹ in Flanders and at the siege of Calais. He married, about 1350,² Aleyne, daughter of his feudal lord, Edmund fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, and Alice, sister, and in her issue, sole heiress of John, Earl of Warenne and Surrey.³ Roger was placed on a commission with Sir John Charlton, on March 12, 1351, to make inquisition touching those who had made counterfeit money at Shrewsbury, and to bring them before the council with their dies and other instruments which had been found in the river Severn.⁴ His stepmother, Joan, who had become the wife of Miles de Stapleton, had a licence on July 3, 1351, to lease to him all his lands which she held in dower;⁵ these and other lands were a few days later entailed on the issue of Roger and Aleyne.⁶ On March 20, 1361, we find Roger in the Commission of the Peace for Salop;⁷ and, on February 10, 1367, he was placed on the Commission of Array for the same county:⁸ these appointments were repeated for many subsequent years. He was summoned to Parliament from September 20, 1355, to August 9, 1382, and the Rolls of Parliament contain proof of his sittings. The Lord of Knockin seems to have been kept pretty busy in providing for the preservation of the King's peace on the Welsh March. He was bidden on his allegiance, on February 10, 1367, to cause a set number of fencible men to be chosen, furnished according to their estate with competent arms, to march when danger threatens;⁹ and there are many similar orders to be found in the Rolls.¹⁰

Richard Earl of Arundel, by his will dated December 5, 1375, left 'to my nephews and nieces, sons and daughters of Sir Roger

¹ *Supra*, p. 328.

³ Eyton, vii. 229.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 111, memb. 22.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1361-1364, p. 64.

⁹ *C. Cl. R.*, 1364-1368, p. 371.

¹⁰ *Fœdera*, iii. pt. 2, pp. 820, 883, 902, 1046, 1075; *C.P.R.*, 1377-1381, pp. 40, 46, 474, 513, 579.

² *Complete Peerage*, vii. 274.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1350-1354, p. 81, memb. 23d.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 118, memb. 18.

⁸ *Ibid.* 1364-1367, p. 430.

le Strange, and to my sister, Dame Alaine le Strange, wife to the said Roger, MD marks, over and above M marks more paid to them already.' ¹ This will shows that Roger and Aleyne had several younger children, though the only one of whom I have found record is Roger, of whom below.

The archives of All Souls' College, Oxford, which eventually became owner of the manor of Edgware, contain a grant made on February 26, 1377, by Roger Lestraunge, lord of Knockin, to his son Roger of that manor for life ; it has a fine seal with two lions passant on a shield, under a helm, surmounted by crest, a lion statant ; on either side, as supporters, are two lions sejant, the whole within a quatrefoil ; of the legend round it only a few letters are left.² In the account of the ceremonials at the coronation of the young King, Richard II, who was crowned at Westminster on July 16, 1377, when he was in his twentieth year, among the 'diversi domini et magnates' who did homage to the King appears the name of '*Rogerus le Straunge de Knockyn*,' ³ and his name is also included among the Triers of Petitions during the three years following.⁴

The inquisition on the death of Roger le Strange⁵ shows that he died on August 23, 1382, leaving as heir his son John, aged thirty, and that he and his wife Aleyne held the following : in London, a large tenement with a garden in Holborn ; in Middlesex, the manor of Colham, and certain rents, with a fair and markets in the manor of Uxbridge ; in Lincolnshire, the manor of Halton ; in Bucks, two water-mills under one roof, in Denham on the bank of the Colne ; in Oxfordshire, the manors of Middleton and Bicester ; in Cambridgeshire, the manor of Middleton ; in Staffordshire, the manor of Shenston ; and in Salop and the March of Wales, the manors of Ellesmere with its hamlets, of Strange Ness, of Kinton, and the castle of Knockin with its demesne. His wife, Aleyne fitz Alan, survived him.

¹ *Testamenta vetusta*, N. H. Nicolas, i. 94.

² Muniment Room at All Souls', Edgware, No. 3.

³ Munim. Gildhal, Lond., ii. part 2, p. 479.

⁴ *Rot. Parl.* iii. 34a, 57a, 72b, 89a.

⁵ Chancery Inq. p.m., 6 Ric. II, File 27, No. 64.

Roger le Strange, a younger son of Roger the fifth baron, has already been mentioned as having had a grant for life of the manor of Edgware. On March 8, 1382, Roger the elder and Roger the younger were both placed on a special commission of the peace for Salop,¹ and it is probably Roger the elder whose name appears in a similar commission on December 14, 1381;² the younger Roger again appears after the death of his father on similar lists,³ in 1382 and 1384. On July 1, 1392, 'Roger Straunge, the King's knight,' had a grant of the marriage of Elizabeth, late the wife of Fulk fitz Waryn, 'the King's widow,' if she consent to marry him, and if not, and she marries another, then the forfeiture or the fine incurred;⁴ apparently she did not consent, as she married Sir Hugh Courtenay, of Huccombe,⁵ so we will hope that Roger got the fine. On July 18 he had a grant of the custody of the castle of Newport, in South Wales, with the forest and park of Caus in Salop.⁶ Two years later he occurs as receiving protection for half a year from August 7, 1394, as going in the King's company to Ireland on his service there.⁷ King Richard went to Ireland in October and held a Parliament there. The position of Roger le Strange is a good instance of the career open to a younger son of a good house at the end of the fourteenth century. He made his way by obtaining, through family influence, the position of a 'King's knight,' *i.e.* the highest grade of royal household officers, above the 'esquires' and 'valets' in personal attendance on the King. He had the ordinary reward in grants of land such as Edgware, of custodies such as Newport-on-Usk and Caus, and of marriages of heiresses such as that of Fulk fitz Warin's daughter. Of these grants some were of old lands of his house, or in districts where le Strange influence was already strong, especially in the March of Wales. Richard II's knights were a very powerful and influential though unpopular body, and it was through them that the King largely carried out his autocratic designs. Roger was already a 'King's knight' on August 22, 1391,⁸ and it was doubt-

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1381-1385, p. 141.

⁴ *Ibid.* 1391-1396, p. 99.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, 1391-1396, p. 119.

⁸ *C.P.R.*, 1388-1392, p. 472.

² *Ibid.* p. 85.

³ *Ibid.* pp. 247, 496.

⁵ *Complete Peerage*, iii. 376.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 486.

less owing to his position as such that he accompanied Richard on his first visit to Ireland in 1394. That King's interest in Roger comes out in his backing Eubulo's clamour for further preferment, and in admitting the brother's tenuous kingship to himself. Roger's name is little if at all in evidence after 1394, so it looks as if he either retired from Court or died at an early age.

The only daughter of Roger, Lord Strange, and Aleyne fitz Alan whose name has come down to us is Lucy, who became the first wife of William, fifth Baron Willoughby de Eresby, and died before March 1406.¹

THOMAS LE STRANGE OF KNOCKIN.

A pardon was granted on March 26, 1378, for alienation, without licence from the King or the Earl of Chester, of the manor of Dunham by Bondon, &c. Among the claimants was Thomas le Strange of Knockin, Lucy his wife, and Alice her sister. These lands had descended to John Curson and Joan de Ingham, wife of Roger le Strange of Knockin, who, for a fine of £100, had pardon of all trespasses.² This Thomas may be the same individual who was present at the siege of Calais in 1347,³ but it is more likely that he was a younger brother of Roger, fifth Lord Strange of Knockin.

RICHARD STRANGE, CHAPLAIN.

Richard Strange, chaplain, was presented to the chantry in the church of Charlton-Mackerel, in the diocese of Bath and Wells, on July 14, 1378.⁴

JOHN LE STRANGE OF LEGHTON.

A release, c. 1350, from John, Lord of Leghton, to Ivo Cresset, of a tenement in Garveston, is witnessed by 'Johanne le Straunge de Leghton,' and 'Waltero fratre ejusdem Johannis.'⁵

¹ *Complete Peerage*, viii. 142.

² *C.P.R.*, 1377-1381, p. 164.

³ *Supra*, p. 313.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1377-1381, p. 263.

⁵ *Trans. Shrops. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 'Old Shropshire Deeds,' ix. 185.

Eyton mentions no connection between any of the le Stranges and Leightons in Shropshire.

JOHN, SIXTH LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN, 1382-1397.

John le Strange, as we have seen, was thirty years old at his father's death; an inquisition '*ad Quod Damnum*' of May 28, 1372, in the Record Office,¹ shows that he was knighted and also that he was married before that date. The jury found that there was no reason why Roger le Strange, knight, of Knockin, should not grant his manor of Avington, Berks, to his son John le Strange, knight, and Maud his wife and their heirs. Maud was the third and youngest daughter, and eventual heiress of John, second Baron Mohun de Dunster. The covenant for his marriage settlement was dated at London on June 17, 1369, and is sealed with a cross engrailed by John de Mohun.² He was placed on the Commission of the Peace for Salop on December 21, 1382;³ and, on April 29, 1385, on the commission of Array, in view of the imminent invasion by the French.⁴ The Patent Rolls contain many entries of similar appointments between 1382 and 1396. His mother, Aleyne fitz Alan, was still alive in 1385, as a pardon was granted on June 25 of that year 'to Richard Earl of Arundel and Surrey, Alina Lestrangle, mother of John Lestrangle, Lord of Knokyn, Joan de Mohun, and Ebulo Lestrangle, clerk, to whom the said John le Strange granted a yearly rent of £70 from his lands in Flint, held of the King in chief, and who entered thereon without licence.'⁵ From a curious indenture, dated November 25, 1383, preserved among the Ashridge Muniments, and printed in the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*,⁶ it appears that John made terms with his mother for living with her at Middle, and paying her £50 per annum for the board and lodging of himself, his wife, and their household, which consisted of one squire, one '*damoisele*,' two valets, one nurse, and one boy (*garson*), and specified deductions were to be made in the event

¹ Chanc. Inq. A.Q.D. Edw. III, File 377 (15).

² MS. *penes* Sir Edward Dering, at Surrenden-Dering.

³ C.P.R., 1381-1385, p. 247.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 590.

⁵ C.P.R., 1385-1389, p. 4.

⁶ Early Deeds rel. to Shropshire, v. 180.

of any of them not living in the house. The document is of sufficient interest to be worth reproduction ; it runs as follows :

Ceste endenture faite parentre ma tres reuerente Dame Alyne Lestrangle, dame de Knokyn, dune part, et le Seigneur Lestrangle monsieur Johan son filz dautre part, Tesmoigne que le dit monsieur Johan demeurera en Lostel ma dite tres reverente dame a bouche de courte : Cest assauoir lui mesmes, dame Maude Lestraunge sa compaigne, vn esquier, vn damoisele, deux vadlets, vn norice, et vn garson, de la date de fesaunte de ceste endenture, tanque a fyn dun an proschein ensuamte plenerment et comply : Rendant et payant a ma dite tres reuerente dame pour lour demoere par le temps susdit cynkaunt liueres de bone moneye en son manoir de Mudle a quatre termes del an, par oweles porcions : Cest assauoir a la quinzeyne de la purification notre dame proschein a venir xij li. xs. et en le feste de seynt Dunstan adonque proschein apres xij li. xs. et en le feste del Assumpcion notre dame adonque proschein ensuante xij li. xs. et en le feste de toux seynts adonque proschein ensuante xij li. xs. Et si auandit Seigneur monsieur Johan, dame Maude sa compaigne, ou ascuns socues sustynauntez soient hors de dit hostel : pour le temps tanque a lour auenue : oit rebatu de la dite somme : pour lui mesmes le iour vij*d.*, pour dame Maude sa compaigne en mesme la manere, pour Lesquier le iour iiij*d.*, et la Damoisele attant ; pour vn vadlet le iour iij*d.* La Norice en mesme la forme, et pour le garson le iour id. : Et en cas que Lostel ma dite tres reuerente dame Lestraunge soit charge des suenantz au andits Seigneur son fitz, dame Maude sa compaigne ou a ascun des soenes susdits : autrement que nest compris en ceste endenture ; que le dit monsieur Johan soit charge de paier pour lour demoere a fyn de chescun quart desuis lymite : cest a dire pour un bachiler le iour viij. vn Esquier le iour vj*d.* Vn vadlet le iour iij*d.*, et un garson le iour ij*d.* que les seruenantz seront accomptez par le Seneschal del Hostel ma dite tres reuerente dame que pour le temps serra et un autre demant oue auont dit Seigneur quele il plerra assigner. Et autre ces le dit Seigneur monsieur Johan veute et graunte par y cestes que si le dit payement soit a derare a ascun dez termes susditz en partie ou en toute ensemblement oue la somme de les suenantz. Chescun acompte solanc lour degree come desuis est dite a fyn de chescun quarte susdite qe ma dite tres reuerente dame ne soit charge pluis outre de la demoere : Et par tiele somme adonque aderere que ma dite tres reuerente dame retigne en ses meyns del manoir de Midlynton en le Counte D'Oxneford de les denieres dues an dit Seigneur monsieur Johan annuelement appaier par ma dite tres reuerente dame pour la moyte de dit Manoir a la vraye value issuit aderere : En tesmoignance de quele chose a cestes endentures les parties susditz entrechangeablement ount mys lour sealx : Escrite a Mudle en le feste de Seynte Katerine : Lan du regne le Roi Richard seconde puis le conquete septisme.

It is evident from the above that Middle, which for a considerable time had been in possession of another branch of the

family, had now reverted to the elder line, and had been assigned to the Lady Aleyne as a dower house.

By a charter dated July 8, 1385, John le Strange, lord of Knockin, granted to Richard Earl of Arundel and Surrey, to Aleyne le Strange his mother, and to Ebulo le Strange, clerk, his brother, the manor of Holborn, in the suburb of London, in fee, with remainder to the heirs of Alice.¹ He was summoned to Parliament from August 20, 1283, to July 18, 1397. He was in the garrison of Berwick, and served in the Scotch wars.² The inquisition on the death of John le Strange shows that he died on July 28, 1397,³ and that on his wife, Maud de Mohun, shows that she survived for three years, and died on September 20, 1400.⁴

Mention has already been made of two brothers of John, sixth Lord Strange of Knockin, viz. Roger, who had a grant of Edgeware for life,⁵ and Eubulo, who was in Holy Orders.⁶ The latter was presented to the rectory of Wistanstow, Salop, c. 1373, and held it until August 6, 1385;⁷ soon after we find him as rector of Gresford, in the modern county of Denbigh, then in the March of Bromfield, which had passed from the Warennes to the fitz Alans. A papal letter of Boniface IX, dated from Rome on April 28, 1391, conveyed the following dispensation:

To Eubulo Strange, rector of Gresford in the diocese of St. Asaph. Dispensation to him, who is of a royal race, has for some years studied civil law, and holds also the free chapel of Hempton, in the Diocese of Lichfield, and a canonry and prebend of Lincoln, value, together with his church, 150 marks; on the petition also of King Richard, who says he is his kinsman, to hold one other benefice without cure, even a major elective dignity with cure in a cathedral, and to exchange it and his said church as often as he please, for two similar or dissimilar incompatible benefices.⁸

I am indebted to Professor Tout for pointing out to me the royal descent of Eubulo, which I had been unable to trace. He writes to me the 'royal blood' was very indirect and not very royal, but a certain distant kinship to the royal house came from

¹ *Lond. and Middlesex Arch. Trans.*, i. 124.

² *Complete Peerage*, vii. 274.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1476-1485, p. 45.

⁴ Chancery Inq. p.m., Hen. IV, File 43, No. 27.

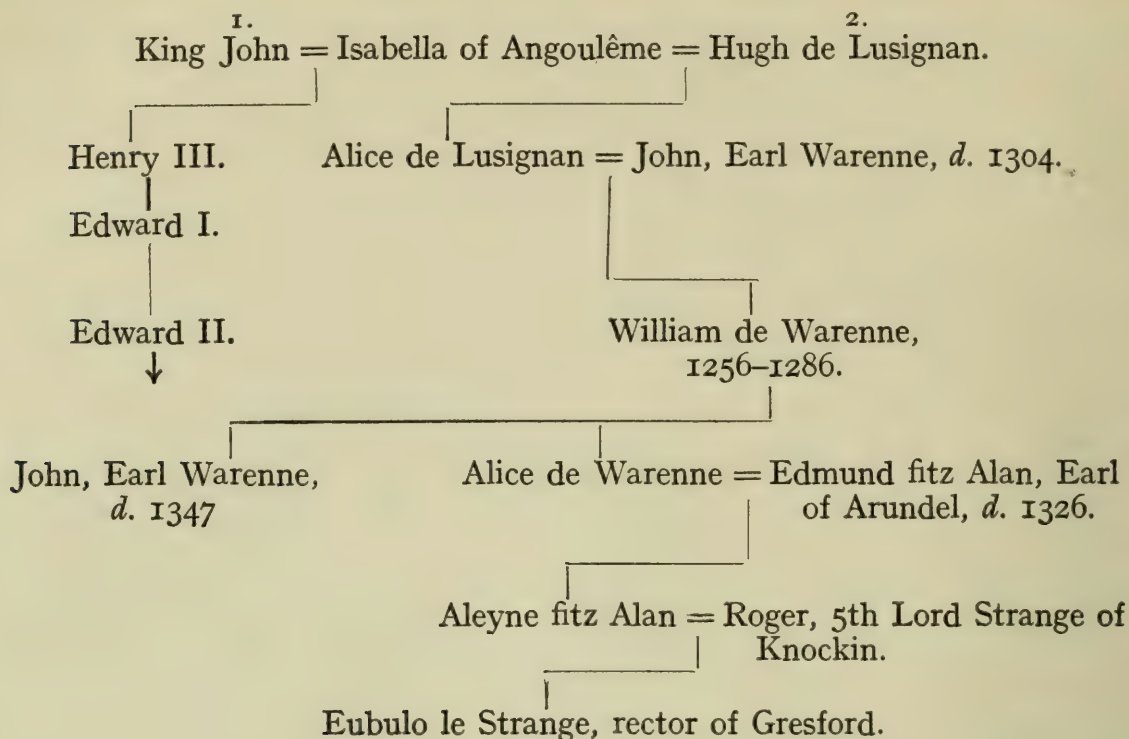
⁵ *Supra*, p. 332.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 334.

⁷ *Eyton*, xi. 364.

⁸ *Cal. Pap. Let.*, 1362, 1404, iv. 357.

Aleyne fitz Alan's descent from Alice de Lusignan, half-sister of Henry III, as will be made clear from the subjoined pedigree.



Professor Tout has found many similar statements as to kinship with the royal house, claimed, and admitted by various kings, and traceable only through the Lusignans, *e.g.* Gilbert Pecché, and Amaury de Craon.¹

The inquest on the death of his brother John shows that the manor of Holborn, which had been granted in 1385 by Roger to Eubulo and others, was regranted by Eubulo to John, to hold jointly with his wife Maud and their heirs; it was, in fact, merely a settlement on them, Eubulo having no beneficiary possession thereof. In 1398 Eubulo procured a ratification of his estate as parson of Gresford,² and also a pardon for having, with others, acquired from his brother John, and entered thereon without licence, the manor of Dunham, co. Chester.³ The last notice which I find of this Eubulo shows that his cloth and his advancing years did not restrain the turbulent lawlessness of his race. It

¹ Tout's *Edward II*, p. 395.

² *C.P.R.*, 1396-1399, p. 321.

³ *Ibid.* p. 333.

is a pardon, granted to him on November 29, 1411, for having—

in the parish of St. Botolph without Aldrychgate in Duklane, in the suburbs of London, lain in an ambush and killed William Bekyngham, and also for having on the same day and place struck the said William on the top [*nodum*] of the head with a sword called a 'bastard swerd,' inflicting a mortal blow from which he immediately died.¹

RICHARD, SEVENTH LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN, AND THIRD
LORD MOHUN DE DUNSTER, 1397-1449.

Richard, seventh Lord Strange of Knockin, was a boy of sixteen when he succeeded his father on July 28, 1397, and he held the title for fifty-two years. The custody of him and his lands had originally been given by the King to Edward, Earl of Rutland, who granted it to Thomas, Earl of Worcester, and another to the use of Maud (de Mohun), Richard's mother. She shortly afterwards married Sir Nicholas Hauberk, but died, as has been mentioned, on September 20, 1400; on February 12 King Henry IV confirmed to Hauberk the custody of the young lord of Knockin,² on his undertaking to pay for it the sum of 400 marks into the Exchequer.³

During the summer of 1403 the Ellesmere tenants of Richard, who was not yet of full age, were involved by his steward, John Kynaston, in the conspiracy of the Percies and Glyndwr to restore Richard, if alive, or, if he were really deceased, to place the Earl of March upon the throne. It appears, from a pardon afterwards granted to the tenants, that Kynaston, under pretext of bringing them to the King, led them to Middle, where they did not find their lord. They would have withdrawn, but Kynaston threatened to behead and draw and hang them, and forced them ignorantly to go to the place where Henry Percy was, and there detained them. Hotspur was defeated and slain near Shrewsbury on July 23, and on August 13 a pardon was issued by Henry IV to the Ellesmere tenants.⁴

Richard made proof of age on August 16, 1404. The inquisition

¹ *C.P.R.*, 1408-1413, p. 273.

³ *Ibid.*, 1401-1405, p. 271.

² *Ibid.*, 1399-1401, p. 424.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 253.

taken thereon mentions that he was born at London, in the parish of St. Bartholomew the Less, in the ward of Bradstrete, and baptized in the same church on August 1, 1381.¹ He was summoned to Parliament as Lord Strange de Knockin from August 25, 1404, to January 2, 1449, and the Rolls contain proof of his sitting.² His name appears among those present in Parliament as witnesses to the two patents for settling the Crown on Henry IV and his four sons.³ Richard Lord Strange was twice married. He must have married his first wife about the year 1408; the only mention of her parentage is in the following dispensation from Pope Gregory XII, dated at Siena on October 9 of that year:

To Richard, lord le Strange, and Joan, damsel, daughter of the lord le Grey, of the dioceses of Lichfield and Lincoln, Dispensation to contract marriage, they having consent of their parents and other magnates, for the conservation of peace and concord in the realm—Richard being a kinsman of Henry, Prince of Wales—and for the union and conservation of the family estates (*hereditates vestri generis*), notwithstanding that they are related in the 3rd degree.⁴

Two other papal letters, dated April 6, 1413, convey *Indults* 'to Richard Lestrangle, nobleman, and Joan, alias Constance, his wife, noblewoman, of the diocese of Lichfield, to have a portable altar, and to choose their own confessor.'⁵ There were at least three Lords Grey sitting in Parliament at this period—viz. Grey de Codnor, Grey de Ruthyn, and Grey de Wilton; but I am unable to say to which of these Joan, alias Constance, should be affiliated. She lived until 1439, and in her will, dated on March 8 of that year, she designates herself as the 'Lady Constance Lestraunge of Knockyn.'⁶

The manor of Edgware which, as we have seen, had been granted for life to Richard's uncle, Roger le Strange, was granted by Richard and Constance his wife, on December 10, 1430, to William Darell and Elizabeth his wife; but, on June 1, 1431, Richard granted to them a rent of a hundred marks from his manor of Dunham, with a proviso that it was not to be paid as long as

¹ Chancery Inq., 5 Hen. IV, File 45, No. 49.

² Rolls of Parliament from *Nicolas' Peerage*.

³ *C. Pap. L.*, 1396–1404, vi. 140.

⁴ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 274.

⁵ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 274.

⁶ *Ibid.* vi. 345 and 387.

they held the manor of Edgware. This was perhaps because the life-tenancy of Roger le Strange had not yet expired.¹ This charter bears a fine example of Richard's seal—a crested helm over a shield, bearing two lions passant, on either side of which is a lion sejant guardant; a different seal of Richard's is appended to the All Souls charter, Edgware, No. 11.

A commission was issued, on March 11, 1414, to Richard le Strange and seven others in the county of Salop to arrest Lollards and imprison them.² A writ was directed to him as patron of the church of Hanmer, in Flintshire, which had been granted by Henry III to the abbots of Haughmond, and held by them until they were unjustly expelled by one of the ancestors of Richard; the King now confirmed the advowson to the abbot.³

On Easter Day, 1417, Lord Strange killed Sir Thomas Trussell in a brawl in the church of St. Dunstan-in-the-East, London, 'excited thereto,' according to Fabian's 'Chronicle,' 'by the Devil, and the evil disposition of their wives'; the following quaint description of this sacrilege and its punishment is given by another chronicler: ⁴

Ande the same yere, a-pon Estyr daye at aftyr none, the Lord Strange and Sir John Trusselle, knyght, fyllle at debate for hyr wyvys in the chyrche of Syn Donstonys in the Este, evyn at the prechyng tyme. In the same fraye Thomas Pedwardynne, fyssche monger, was slayne as he wolde have lettyde hem of hyr fyghtyng, and many men wer i-hurte; and therefore the chyrche was suspendyd. And then was the Lorde Stronge a-restyd and brought into the Counter in the Pultrye, and the Sondag nexte aftyr he was cursyde in every chyrche in London, whithe boke, belle, and candelle, in one houre of the daye. And after he dyde his penaunsse for hys trespas agenst Hooly Chyrche.

A full account of the brawl, which was begun by a quarrel for precedency of place in church between the ladies, is given in Bridge's 'History of Northamptonshire.' ⁵

The name of Richard le Strange appears in the Commission of the Peace for Salop in the years 1422-4, 1426, 1439-41, 1443; and in that for Middlesex in 1445 and 1454-7.⁶

¹ *Archives of All Souls, Oxon*, 1877, p. 35; Edgware, 6 and 11.

² *C.P.R.*, 1413-1416, p. 178.

³ *Ibid.* p. 394.

⁴ William Gregory's *Chronicle of London* (Camden Soc.), p. 115.

⁵ ii. 389.

⁶ *C.P.R.*, *Hen. V*, ii. 458; *Hen. VI*, i. 569; iii. 589; iv. 474, 477; vi. 671.

On the death of John, Lord Mohun de Dunster, in 1375-6, that barony had fallen into abeyance among his daughters; of these the eldest, Elizabeth, Countess of Salisbury, died without issue in 1415; the second, Philippa, Duchess of York, also died without issue in 1431, while the third, Maud, widow of John, sixth Lord Strange of Knockin, had died before 1401; so, on the death of Philippa, Richard le Strange, as representing his mother, Maud, became sole heir to his maternal grandfather, and succeeded to the barony of Mohun de Dunster, which from this period followed the descent of that of Strange of Knockin, until both passed into the family of Stanley.

Richard was assessed at 6s. 8*d.* towards the subsidy of 1428 in respect of a knight's fee at Coleham, Middlesex, for the campaign in France against Joan of Arc;¹ and, on February 14, 1436, his name appears in the writ requesting loans of 'cent livres' from the persons there named, for the equipment of the army about to be sent to France.²

The second wife of Richard Lord Strange was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Reginald Cobham of Sterborough Castle. The marriage must have taken place very shortly after the death of his first wife Constance, whose will was dated March 8, 1439; as on August 26 following Richard had a licence to entail Ness, Ellesmere, and other manors on the issue of himself and his wife Elizabeth;³ by her he had a son and heir, John, who succeeded him. The Inquisitions p.m. on Richard show that he died on August 9, 1449, and that his wife Elizabeth survived him.⁴ She died four years later, on December 10, 1453.⁵

A weather-worn stone shield on the exterior of the east face of Ellesmere Church tower, on the string-course below the parapet, bears the arms of Richard Lord Strange and his second wife, viz. gules, two lions passant, argent, for *le Strange*; quartering, or, a cross engrailed, sable, for *Mohun*; and impaling gules, on a chevron, or, three . . ., for Cobham; the stone is too much defaced to enable the bearings, if any, on the chevron to be made

¹ *Feudal Aids*, iii. 381.

² *Proc. of Privy Council*, iv. 317.

³ *C.P.R.*, 1436-1441, p. 307.

⁴ *Inq. p.m.*, 27 Hen. VI, No. 29, m. 5.

⁵ *Chancery Inq. p.m.*, 33 Hen. VI, File 153, No. 18.

out.¹ Some branches of the Cobham family bore thereon three lioncels rampant, others three cross crosslets, or three estoiles.²

THOMAS LE STRANGE.

A Thomas le Strange occurs in North Wales between the years 1415 and 1428 whom I am unable to identify. The first mention of him is in a list of payments for the protection of Wales during the reign of Henry V in the year 1415: £546 was paid to Thomas Straunge and others for that purpose from March 25 to June 24³; and on April 24 of the same year the sum of £282 14s. 6d. was paid to Thomas Straunge for the custody of North Wales.⁴

An entry in the De Banco Plea Rolls for 1425⁵ shows that Thomas Lestraunge, of Walton, esquire, sued Richard le Straunge of Knockin, knight, for the manor of Middle, which he claimed as heir-at-law of his niece, Alice, who had died *s.p.*⁶

A commission was issued on November 26, 1422, to Thomas Straunge, esquire, Constable of the castle of Chirk, to purvey horses, carts, and transport to convey fifteen prisoners of France from the said castle to London.⁷ On July 18, 1426, and on November 25, 1427, commissions were directed to Thomas Straunge, with others, to hold inquests as to treasons and felonies, &c., in Salop and the Marches.⁸ Protection for a year was granted to Thomas Straunge, esquire, about to proceed to Ireland in company of John Sutton, knight, the King's Lieutenant of that *county* [*sic*],⁹ and on July 12, 1429, Thomas Straunge, knight, was appointed to the office of Constable of the castle of Wicklow, on the frontier of the March in Ireland, with the usual fees;¹⁰ he must have been knighted during the interval.

¹ Information supplied April 30, 1914, by the Rev. F. G. Ellerton, Vicar of Ellesmere.

² Boutell's *Heraldry* (1864), p. 180, Pl. xv.

³ *Henry V* by J. H. Wylie (1914), i. 546, *n.*

⁴ Iss. Roll, 3 Hen. V.

⁵ 4 Hen. VI, m. 308.

⁶ De Banco Rolls, Trinity, 4 Hen. VI, m. 308; pedigrees from the Plea Rolls by Major-General the Hon. G. Wrottesley, p. 328.

⁷ *C.P.R.*, Hen. VI, i. 36.

⁸ *Ibid.* pp. 362 and 467.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 471.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 543.

JOHN, EIGHTH LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN AND FOURTH LORD
MOHUN DE DUNSTER, 1449-1477.

The inquisition on the death of his father shows that John le Strange was born on May 20, 1444,¹ and was five years of age when he succeeded as eighth Lord Strange of Knockin and fourth Lord Mohun de Dunster. He was summoned to Parliament from February 28, 1467, to August 19, 1472, and the Rolls contain proof of his sitting.² Even during his minority his name was included in letters sent by King Henry VI to the lords spiritual and temporal requiring them to attend Parliament.³ Before he was eighteen years of age he was placed in the Commission of the Peace and of Array for Middlesex, viz. on December 4, 1461, as 'John Straunge of Straunge, knight';⁴ and on September 21, 1462, a licence was issued for 'John, lord le Strange, son and heir of Elizabeth [Cobham] le Strange, deceased, late the wife of Richard, lord le Strange, knight, deceased, who is nearly of full age, to enter into all his possessions in England and Wales, and the Marches of Wales.'⁵ From the beginning of his career he was a pronounced Yorkist. He was made a knight by bathing at the coronation of Edward IV on June 28, 1461,⁶ and was one of the peers who took the oath of allegiance to Edward, Prince of Wales, as son and heir-apparent, at Westminster, on July 3, 1471.⁷ His name appears repeatedly between 1466 and 1479 in Commissions of the Peace, of Array, and of *Oyer and Terminer* for the counties of Salop, Warwick, Middlesex, and Oxford;⁸ and he was appointed one of the Triers of Petitions in 1472.⁹

John le Strange married Jacquetta, or Jacinta, sister of Elizabeth, Queen Consort of Edward IV, fourth daughter of Richard Wydeville, first Earl Rivers, by Jacquetta, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, daughter of Peter de Luxembourg, Count of St. Pol and Conversan.¹⁰

¹ Chancery Inq., 27 Hen. VI, File 134, No. 29.

² *Complete Peerage*, vii. 274; viii. 516.

³ *Proc. Privy Council*, vi. 282 and 292.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 200.

⁷ Rolls of Parliament, Nicolas' *Peerage*.

⁹ Rolls of Parliament.

⁴ *C.P.R.*, 1461-1467, p. 567.

⁶ Metcalfe's *Book of Knights*, p. 3.

⁸ *C.P.R.*, *Edw. IV*, *passim*.

¹⁰ *Complete Peerage*, vii. 274.

The church of Hanmer, in Shropshire, was given by John Lord Strange to the abbot of Haughmond on December 1, 1476, for the endowment of a perpetual chantry there, with a daily Mass to be said on the altar of St. Anne, mother of the Virgin, for the souls of John and his wife Jacinta, of Richard, late Lord Strange, and Elizabeth his wife, parents of John, and of Constancia, former wife of the said Richard. Provided that, if the church of Hanmer should, by the rebellion of the Welsh or otherwise, be destroyed, so that it should not exceed the annual value of 10 marks, then the said chantry should cease until the value of the said church exceeded that sum.¹ The above transaction affords some criterion of the difference in the value of money in the second half of the fifteenth century. If we put these 10 marks as the equivalent of the pay of a curate nowadays (A.D. 1914), say, £150 a year, it works out :

1 mark in 1476	=	£15 os. od.	in 1914.
xxs.	„	=	£22 10s. od. „
1s.	„	=	£1 2s. 6d. „

or an appreciation of $22\frac{1}{2}$ times.

A commission was issued on February 13, 1477, to 'John Straunge of Straunge, knight,' he being named first with sixteen others to inquire by oath into the capture of swans and cygnets on the Thames and its tributaries 'from Cirencestre to its mouth, by hooks, nets, lyme strynges, and other engines, the alteration and deletion of the marks of swans, and the taking of swans' eggs, and to arrest and imprison the offenders.'²

John Lord Strange died without male issue on October 16, 1479, leaving as his heiress an only daughter, Joan,³ who, thirty years later, caused to be erected in Hillingdon Church, Middlesex, a marble tombstone with a brass to the memory of her father and mother. The inscription no longer remains, but has been preserved by Weever, and was existing when he wrote in 1631.⁴

¹ Chartulary of Haughmond, fo. 85b and 86.

² C.P.R., 1476-1485, p. 24.

³ Chancery Inq., Edw. IV, File 70, No. 39.

⁴ *Ancient Funeral Monuments within Great Britain, &c.*, 1st ed. of 1631, p. 530.

It was probably on a brass fillet running round the edge of the marble slab, like that of Sir Roger le Strange in Hunstanton Church, which is of nearly the same date. The inscription given by Weever is as follows :

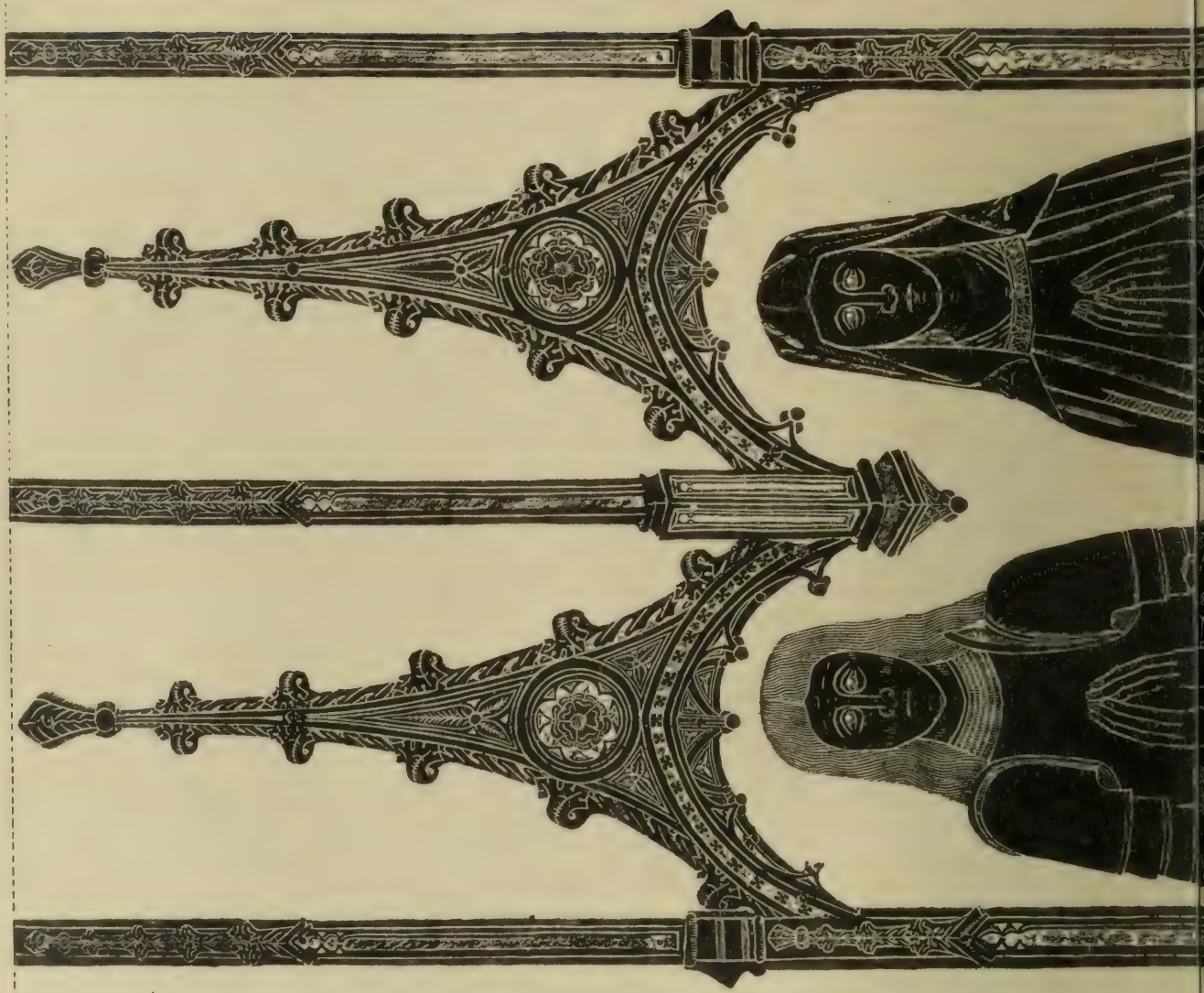
Sub hac tumba iacet nobilis JOHANNES dominus le STRANGE, dominus de Knocking, Mohun, Wasset, Warnell, et Lacy, et dominus de Colham, vna cum pictura JACNETTE, quondam uxoris sue ; que quidem JACNETTA fuit soror ELIZABETHE regine Anglie, quondam uxoris regis EDWARDI quarti, qui quidem JOHANNES obiit 15 die Octobris, anno regni regis EDWARDI quarti 17^o, quam quidem tumbam JOHANNA, domina le Strange, vna cum pictura JACNETTE ex sump-
tibus suis propriis fieri fecit 1509.

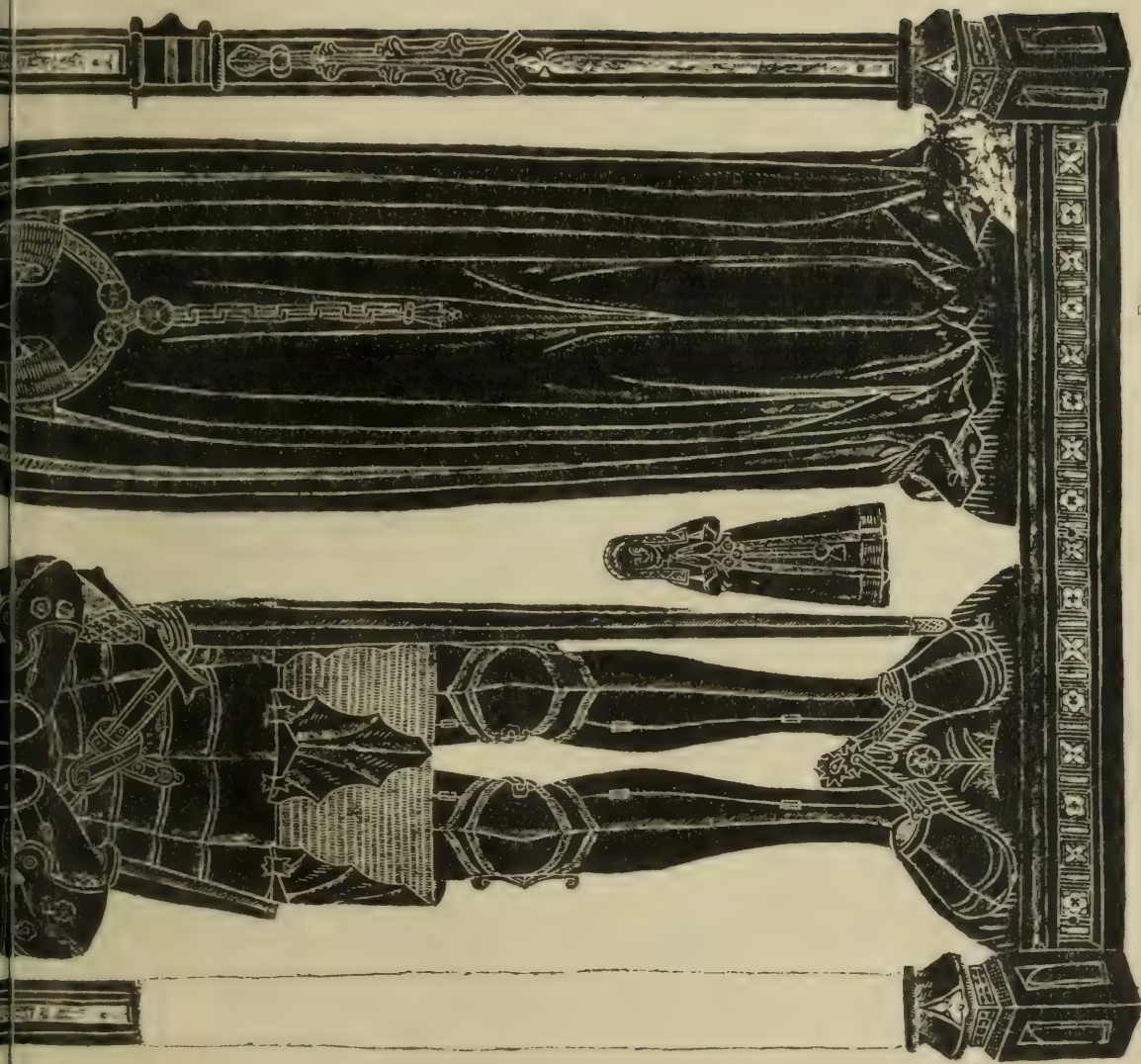
The marble slab and brass was removed for its better preservation some years ago from its original position, and fixed to the wall on the north side of the door leading from the church to the vestry. It will be noticed that the date of John's death given on the tomb, erected thirty years after that event, is October 15, 17 Edward IV, *i.e.* 1477, whereas the verdict of the jury on the spot, given at the inquest held at the time, says that he died on October 16, 19 Edward IV, *i.e.* 1479. By the kind permission of the Monumental Brass Society, I am able to give a reduced copy of their rubbing of the brass.¹

JOAN, BARONESS STRANGE OF KNOCKIN AND
MOHUN DE DUNSTER, 1479-1514.

Joan le Strange is stated, in the inquisition on her father's death, to have been sixteen years old and more when she inherited from him the two baronies of Strange of Knockin and Mohun de Dunster ; as was to be expected in the case of so great an heiress, she married shortly after her father's death, probably in 1480 ; at all events she was married before February 26, 1481, as the Patent Rolls of that date contain a licence for George Stanley, knight, and Joan his wife, daughter and heiress of John Lestraunge, knight, late Lord Lestraunge, to enter freely into all castles, manors, and other possessions in England, Wales, and the Marches

¹ *Mon. Brass Soc.*, vol. i. Part vii. Plate 5.





W. GRIGGS, PHOTO-LITH. FROM A RUBBING BY E. BRAND, 1899. Scale: 1 Foot.

John, Lord Strange, 1477, and wife Jacquetta, sister of Elizabeth Woodville, Queen of Edward IV., and their only child Joan, who laid down the brass in 1509.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.

Brass of JOHN, 8TH LORD STRANGE OF KNOCKIN,
and JACQUETTA WOODVILLE.

of Wales, late of the said John, which should descend to her after his death.¹ Joan's husband, Sir George Stanley, was son and heir of Thomas, Lord Stanley, afterwards created Earl of Derby by Henry VII, out of gratitude for Thomas's timely treason at the battle of Bosworth, where he is said to have picked up the Crown and placed it on Henry's head. George Stanley's life had been up to that day in great danger, since he was held by King Richard as a hostage for his father's loyalty. In right of his wife he was summoned to Parliament as a baron during his father's lifetime, by writs directed '*Georgio Stanley de la Strange*,' from November 15, 1482, to January 26, 1497. He was a privy councillor, and made Knight of the Garter in May 1487. He died, *patrie vivente*, on December 5, 1497, at Derby House, London (on the site of the present College of Arms).² His widow Joan, Baroness Strange, survived until March 20, 1514, and on her death her son Thomas, who had succeeded to the earldom of Derby ten years before, inherited his mother's baronies of Strange of Knockin³ and Mohun de Dunster, which thenceforth were merged in the earldom until the death of Ferdinando, the fifth earl, without male issue, on April 16, 1594; his brother, William Stanley, as heir male of the body of the grantee, succeeded to the earldom, but not to the older honours of the family, which fell into abeyance between Ferdinando's three daughters and co-heirs, among whose representatives the barony of Strange of Knockin still remains in abeyance.

BARONY OF STRANGE BY WRIT OF 1628.

Thirty-four years later, viz. in 1628, James Stanley, eldest son of the sixth earl, was summoned to Parliament, *vitâ patris*, by writ directed to him as *Jacobo Stanley de Strange, Chl'r*, under the erroneous belief that the barony of Strange of Knockin [of 1299] was vested in his father, and he was even placed in the precedence of that ancient barony, though this precedence was subsequently

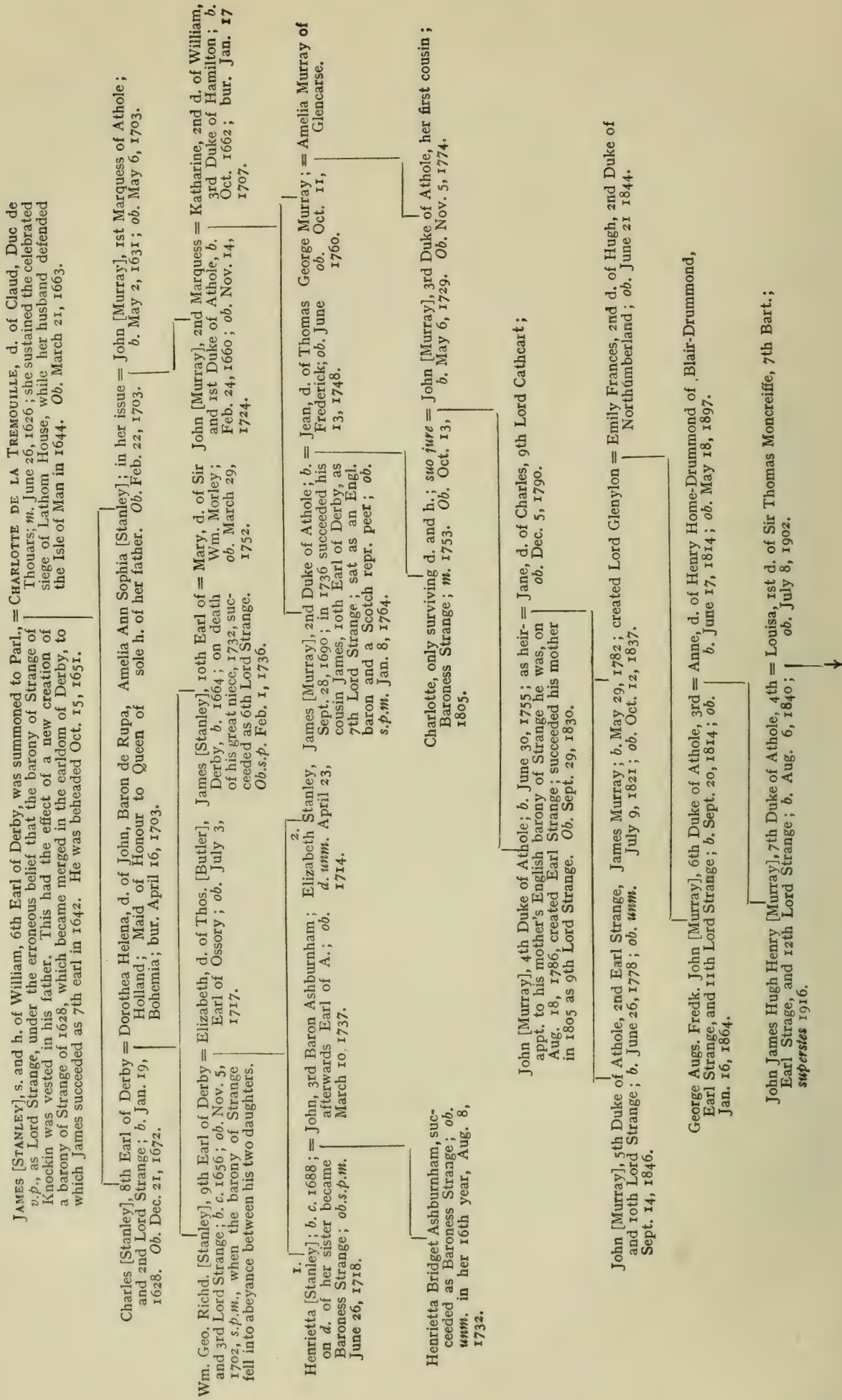
¹ Pat. Rolls, Edw. IV, No. 27.

² *Complete Peerage*, iii. 69, 70.

³ Chancery Inq., 6 Hen. VIII, File 79, No. 159.

PEDIGREE X.—THE BARONY OF STRANGE

BY WRIT OF 1628



disallowed. The effect of this writ was to create, in the Stanley family, a new barony of Strange, with precedency of 1628. This new peerage in its turn fell into abeyance on the death of William George Richard, ninth Earl of Derby and third Lord Strange, without male issue on November 5, 1702, between his two daughters and co-heirs. The younger of these died without issue in 1714, when the barony of Strange devolved upon her sister Henrietta, then the wife of John, Lord Ashburnham ; she too died without male issue on June 26, 1718, and the barony was inherited by her only surviving daughter, Lady Henrietta Bridget Ashburnham, who died unmarried on August 8, 1732, in her sixteenth year. The title then reverted to the Stanleys, in the person of the great-uncle of the deceased baroness, as heir general, viz. James, next brother to William George Richard, ninth Earl of Derby and third Lord Strange, who had himself on November 5 succeeded his said brother as tenth Earl of Derby, and now became sixth Lord Strange. He died without issue on February 1, 1736, aged 71, when the earldom of Derby devolved on his cousin Edward Stanley, who became eleventh earl, but the barony of Strange, with the lordship of the Isle of Man and most of his other large estates, passed to the heir general, James Murray, second Duke of Athole, grandson of Amelia Sophia, daughter, and in her issue sole heir, of James Stanley, seventh Earl of Derby and first Lord Strange of the new creation. He sat in the British Parliament as a representative peer for Scotland in 1733, and in 1737 was summoned by writ as Lord Strange, and sat both as an English baron and a Scotch representative peer. James, the second duke, died without male issue in 1764, leaving an only surviving daughter, Charlotte, *suo jure* Baroness Strange, who married her first cousin, John Murray, third Duke of Athole ; she survived her husband, who died in 1774, and was succeeded by their son John as fourth duke. He, being at that time heir-apparent to his mother's English barony of Strange, was created, on August 18, 1786, Earl Strange in the peerage of Great Britain, and by that title the Dukes of Athole sit to-day in the House of Lords. Charlotte, Duchess of Athole and Baroness Strange, survived until 1805, and her great-great-grandson, the present Duke of Athole, enjoys, merged

among his many titles, the barony of Strange of the creation of 1628, of which he is the twelfth holder.¹

Mr. Cockayne remarks that :

long after the barony of Strange had passed from the family of Stanley, Earls of Derby, in 1736, the style of LORD STRANGE continued to be assumed as the courtesy title of the heir-apparent of those earls during the eighteenth century.

¹ *Complete Peerage*, i. 187-191 ; iii. 73-75 ; vii. 269-271.

CHAPTER X

SUMMARY AND GENERAL REMARKS

IN the preceding chapters we have traced the story of the family of le Strange from its first appearance in Norfolk, *circa* 1100, and its more important enfeoffments, a generation later, on the Welsh March in what is now the county of Shropshire. Some legendary stories as to its origin have been refuted, notably that of the descent from an imaginary Duke of Brittany ; it has been shown that the family did not come over with the Conqueror, but that the first of the name who settled in England did marry the daughter and heiress of the Domesday tenant of lands at Hunstanton which are still in the possession of her descendants ; the first settler came, not from Normandy, but from Anjou, and his very name points to the conclusion that even in his Angevin home he was reckoned to be of foreign extraction. The politics of the time are reflected in their transfer, with other Angevin families, by Henry of Anjou to the borderland of Wales, but they held on to their Norfolk property, and evidence has been given showing that, occasionally at least, they visited Hunstanton during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In the wars of the barons, and especially during the Welsh wars, they played a not unimportant part in the history of the time as a typical Marcher family, following nearly always the general movements which led the Marcher lords to take a decided line of their own, and that not always a consistent one, in the great problems of politics.

The first John le Strange was one of four brothers who, during the reign of Henry II, were enfeoffed by that King in the manors

of Ness, Cheswardine, Alveley, Little Ercall, Betton, Osbaston, Ruyton, Middle, and other places, all within the borders of modern Shropshire. Hamon, the second son of the founder, Roland le Strange, had done good service to Henry before he came to the throne, and consequently was the first of the family to receive a fief, namely, the manor of Cheswardine. Guy le Strange, the third brother, founded Knockin Castle, within the manor of Osbaston, and in 1160 succeeded William fitz Alan (I) in the important office of Sheriff of Salop; in that capacity he was, during the frequent absence of King Henry on the Continent, responsible for the peace and safety of the middle March, and he rendered useful and loyal service to the Crown by holding the royal castles of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury during the formidable rebellion of the King's sons in 1173-4. Ralph, the youngest of the four le Stranges, was employed in a position of trust as custodian of the King's silver mines at Carreghova. Thus we see that in the course of only one generation the family of le Strange had established themselves firmly as lords of many manors on the Welsh March, received in reward for strenuous service to Henry II. Too little has come down to us concerning these four brothers to enable us to form any estimate as to their personality, but the way in which, new-comers as they were, they succeeded in pushing themselves to the front, proves that they must have been possessed of considerable force of character as well as strength of arm, and their conduct and career laid a firm foundation for the future fortunes of the family.

The second John le Strange had been in public life for some years before he succeeded his father in 1179, and for the long period of fifty-six years he successively served under Henry II, Richard I, John, and Henry III, as one of the Marcher lords in the debatable land of the Welsh border. During Richard's reign we have seen him assisting his dying cousin Ralph of Alveley in the protection of the royal mines at Carreghova, but he found time to prosecute at least three lawsuits in which he was engaged, showing that he was as tenacious of his own private rights as he was assiduous in the performance of his public duties. After the death of his uncle, Guy le Strange of Alveley and Knockin,

John effected an arrangement with the heiresses who had inherited that frontier fortress, whereby he acquired possession of it, and immediately afterwards we find him styling himself lord of Knockin ; the growing importance of the position caused it thenceforth to be regarded as the principal seat of the elder branch of the family. During the years of King John's quarrel with the Pope, 1205 to 1213, John le Strange did not side with most of the other barons against his sovereign, but occupied himself with holding the Marches for the King against the Welsh princes who had allied themselves with the barons of England. Even when the misdeeds of John compelled the barons to extort from him the great charter of their liberties, John le Strange did not waver in his allegiance ; his name appears as one of the only four knights on the border who had never borne arms against their sovereign : yet he so conducted himself as not to lose the respect or to incur the enmity of the barons, and, after the accession of Henry III, he even received marks of favour from those who ruled the councils of the young King ; for instance, he was granted an 'aid' from the counties of Salop and Stafford to enable him to strengthen the fortifications of Knockin Castle, an object for which further provision was made by the King five years later. During these years le Strange was frequently employed as the King's representative in negotiating and enforcing the observance of truces with the Welsh, and also as Justiciar in settling disputes between them and the Crown. Towards the close of his life his long and faithful services to King Henry and his father were rewarded by the grant in fee of the manor of Wrockwardine. His son, John le Strange, junior, entered public life during his father's lifetime ; he accompanied the King to Gascony in 1230, an expedition made with the object of recovering the lost provinces of the Crown. The long career of John (II), passed in steady and exemplary service on the borderland of Wales, consolidated the fortunes of his house, and enabled him to hand on to his son an example of the faithful performance of feudal duties and obligations.

John le Strange (III) had already served an apprenticeship of twenty years in public life when he succeeded his father in 1233-4. He was made Constable of Montgomery Castle in 1235, was Sheriff of

Salop and Stafford from 1236 to 1245, and was frequently employed in settling disputes as to infractions of the truce with Llewelyn the Great, which he managed to effect without having recourse to arms. In 1240 he was appointed to the high office of Justice of the Palatine County of Chester, and as such occupied the position of a viceroy, representing the earl, who was also the King. The confidential relation in which he stood to his sovereign is shown by the patent of February 13, 1241, binding him, in the event of Henry's death, to deliver the castles in his custody to Queen Eleanor and her infant son Edward. John le Strange was practically military governor of the whole of the north March, and the measures taken by him consolidated the King's power in North Wales, and prepared the way for the future conquest of the country by Edward I. Le Strange's eldest son, John, and his second son, Hamon, are first mentioned in the year 1253. Hamon served under the King during the expedition of that and the following year to Gascony, and received marks of the royal favour there; on his return home he was employed on the King's service in Scotland. The quarrel between Henry and the barons broke out in 1258. John le Strange the elder and Hamon remained faithful to the King, but John the younger at first espoused the cause of the barons; he soon attached himself to the party of Prince Edward, and was one of those who aided him in breaking up the baronial group which had ruled the country since the 'Provisions of Oxford.' In 1262 Hamon was an adherent of Simon de Montfort, as also were several of the King's friends, but when Prince Henry took up arms against the barons in 1263, Hamon le Strange was among those who went over to the King's side; the Lords Marcher, as a body, changed front and rallied round Prince Edward, and had an important influence on the struggle. Hamon received the appointment of Sheriff of Shropshire and Stafford, with the custody of the border castles. He was present at the defeat of the royal forces at Lewes on May 14, 1264, but escaped from the field with Prince Edward, and raised a new force against de Montfort on the Welsh March. Hamon and his fellow Marchers continued in arms all the winter. In the spring of 1265 Prince Edward, who had surrendered himself after

Lewes, effected his escape and joined the royalist army, which ended the struggle by defeating de Montfort at Evesham. For these services rewards were showered on Hamon le Strange, but a peaceful life at home was not to his liking ; his subsequent career, his joining the crusade of 1270, his marriage with the Queen of Cyprus, and his death in the Holy Land, have been narrated in Chapter IV. John le Strange the elder must have been about seventy years of age at the date of the battle of Evesham, and was consequently too old to take an active part in the final campaign. He died early in 1269, after a strenuous life of consistent adherence to his allegiance.

John le Strange (IV), whom we have seen in active public life for some twenty years before he succeeded his father in 1269, had a much shorter tenure of the lordship of Knockin than any of his predecessors, as he was accidentally drowned six years after he came into possession. During those six years England was practically without a King ; Henry III was in his dotage, and Edward I absent in the Holy Land. John's marriage with Joan de Somery, daughter of the co-heiress of the last Albini, Earl of Arundel, brought him a considerable accession of property. If there is little to be said of him in consequence of his premature death, his brothers upheld the fighting record of the family, and his sister, Hawyse, added influence to it by her marriage with the Prince of Upper Powys. Of Hamon, the crusader, sufficient mention has already been made. Roger of Little Ercall, the third son of John (III), had fought in early life against Simon de Montfort. During the first Welsh war of Edward I he served under Roger de Mortimer in the army of the middle March. Mortimer died in the early part of the second Welsh war, and Roger le Strange succeeded him in command of the royal forces near Builth, and won the battle of Orewin Bridge, at which Llewelyn was slain. His intimate local knowledge of the country, and perhaps his connection with the Welsh magnates through the marriage of his sister Hawyse with Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn; caused him to be selected by King Edward as commander of the expedition sent to suppress the subsequent rising of Rhys ap Maredudd in 1287, and again his services were similarly employed

in the third and last rising of the Welsh in 1294. Soon after the death of his brother Hamon, Roger had received from the King a grant for life of the castle and manor of Ellesmere which had been held by Hamon, and he was the first of his family to be summoned to Parliament, viz. in 1295, as 'dominus de Ellesmere,' and under that designation he sealed the famous letter of 1301 to the Pope.

Roger's nephew, John (V) of Knockin, appears to have inherited the fighting qualities of his race, but did not rise to the same distinction of independent command as did his uncle; during the Welsh wars John frequently served under the orders of Roger, or, in the phrase of the day, was directed to 'be intendant to him.' His services were especially recognised by Edward as having been rendered spontaneously and gracefully, over and above what was required from him by the obligations of his tenure. After the conclusion of the Welsh wars John le Strange led some of his Marcher tenants to fight in Gascony for King Edward, who had a very high opinion of the value of the Welsh troops. John's estates were not confined to the original holdings of his family in Salop and Norfolk; he held manors in several other counties. Through his grandmother, Nicola de Albini, he possessed part of the manor of Olney in Northamptonshire, and he also had lands in the counties of Stafford, Cambridge, Oxford, Warwick, and Gloucester. Yet the income from these extensive estates did not suffice to defray the expenses to which he was frequently put in raising and maintaining forces for the service of the Crown, and he was often reduced to the necessity of borrowing money from the Jews and Lombards.

John le Strange served in Gascony in the expedition of 1296 under the King's brother, Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, but returned in a year or two as his services were more required in the Scotch wars, in which he was constantly employed up to the death of King Edward in 1307. Peerage lawyers of a later date regard the barony of Strange of Knockin as having been created by the summons, issued from Berwick-upon-Tweed on December 29, 1299, directing John le Strange (V) to attend the Parliament at London on February 27 following. His arms are blazoned

among those of the knights recorded in the contemporary poem on the siege of Caerlaverock in 1300, and it was as lord of Knockin that he sealed the barons' letter of the following year to the Pope. Evidence has been given showing that John's daughter Elizabeth was the grandmother of the Welsh hero, Owen Glendower. John was summoned to the coronation of Edward II, and also to take part in an intended expedition against Scotland, and his son John was also in the King's service at the same time. In 1309 we find John (V), as Sheriff of Shropshire, employed in carrying out the severe measures against the Templars, and the Roll of Arms of the tournament of Stepney gives us a glimpse of him as one of three le Strange knights present there on May 28 of that year. In August 1309 he was ordered to raise a hundred men from the neighbourhood of Knockin for service against the Scots, but he died early in that month, probably in the camp at Berwick, having taken part in each of the campaigns of Edward I in Wales, Gascony, and Scotland.

Roger le Strange, uncle of John (V), survived his nephew for about two years, but his fighting days had been over for some time; he had served in even more campaigns than John, and in some had been entrusted with supreme command of the royal forces. In the wars of the barons he had fought on the King's side against Simon de Montfort, had effected his escape, subsequent to the defeat of Lewes, and after contributing to the victory at Evesham, he received substantial grants of land and valuable offices in reward, notably the hundred and castle of Ellesmere, the shrievalty of the county and castle of York, and the custody of the Castle of the Peak of Derby. In right of his first wife, Maud, widow of Roger de Mowbray, and daughter and co-heiress of William de Beauchamp, he acquired further lands in Bedfordshire. He played a prominent part, as we have seen, in all three of the Welsh wars of Edward I, and his activities even extended to Ireland. His great services were requited by a grant of the important and onerous office of Justice of the Forest south of Trent, the discharge of the multifarious duties of which obliged him to be always on the move through the Midlands and all the southern counties of England. The expenses attendant thereon

were not covered by the profits, and like his nephew and others of the family, he had to have recourse to loans. Roger's abilities were held in such high esteem by Edward I that he was sent as one of two envoys to Rome to obtain from the Pope recognition of the dependence of the Scottish Crown on that of England; his diplomatic efforts succeeded in obtaining from Nicholas IV a confirmation of this recognition. He appears to have spent about a year in Rome; on his return he resumed work as Justice of the Forest. His administration of the Forest Laws was conducted on somewhat more liberal principles than had been formerly the case, in that he afforded facilities for obtaining enclosures by private individuals in the royal forests. In 1297 he was relieved of his functions as Justice, probably owing to failing health, and for the remainder of his life he was unable to discharge any active duties; but it is satisfactory to find that his past services were recognised by many marks of favour from the King, who, after Roger's death, which occurred on July 31, 1311, made provision for the fitting observance of his obsequies, and even granted a pension to his second wife, who survived him for more than twenty-five years. In Roger le Strange the characteristics and capacity shown by so many of his race reached, perhaps, their culminating point. As a soldier he was both a strenuous fighter and a good tactician. In civil life he discharged the duties of many diverse offices—sheriff, justice, and ambassador—to the advantage of his King and country, which were fully recognised and honoured by three successive sovereigns, and though his closing years were clouded by disease, he must have derived satisfaction from the continuance of the royal favour. The pity is that he left no legitimate descendants to carry on his honours and found a new branch of the family of which he was such a worthy representative.

John le Strange (VI), second Lord Strange of Knockin, only enjoyed his honour and estates for about eighteen months. It has been shown that, during his father's lifetime, he had seen service in the Scotch wars. Immediately after his father's death he was summoned to Parliament, but Edward II abandoned the prosecution of his projected campaign against Scotland, and

John was notified that the hundred men from Knockin, whom his father had been ordered to find, would not be required. The important arrangement by which a younger branch of the family, which eventually outlived the elder line, was settled at Hunstanton, has been given in full detail in Chapter VII, and a sketch has been given in Chapter IX of the history of the subsequent lords of Knockin, until the merger of the title in the earldom of Derby in 1514. John (VI) died early in 1311, at the age of twenty-nine. Besides his brother Hamon of Hunstanton he left another brother, named Eubulo, who attained to some distinction as a fighter, and was the fourth of his House to be summoned to Parliament as a baron. His name first appears in 1313 as one of the adherents of the Earl of Lancaster, son of Edmund Crouchback, in the events which brought about the death of Gaveston. After the execution of Lancaster in 1322 Eubulo married his widow, Alice, and through her acquired extensive manors and castles in many parts of the kingdom. She was the daughter and heiress of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and in her own right Countess of Lincoln through her father, and also Countess of Salisbury through her mother. Two years after his marriage Eubulo was appointed by Edward II to the Constableship of Lincoln Castle, and was summoned to Parliament among the barons. From Edward III, in the early years of his reign, Eubulo and Alice received many marks of favour; Alice was confirmed in the possession of considerable portions of the estates of her first husband which had been forfeited by his treason. In 1332 Eubulo was relieved of his functions as Constable of Lincoln, and was employed by the King next year in his invasion of Scotland, being present at the siege of Berwick and the battle of Halidon Hill. For his services he received a grant of the castle of Builth, in Wales, from whence he brought 2000 Welsh footmen and 20 men-at-arms to assist Edward in his invasion of Scotland in 1335. Eubulo lost his life during the campaign there in the summer of that year, and as he left no children his honours perished with him, while such lands as he held in fee in his own right passed to his nephew and heir, Roger, fourth Lord Strange of Knockin.

It remains now to make some mention of the le Stranges of the House of Blackmere; they were descended from Robert, fourth son of John (III) of Knockin, by Eleanor de Whitchurch; Robert had fought with his brothers Hamon and Roger against Simon de Montfort in the barons' wars; like Hamon, he went with Prince Edward to the Crusade of 1270, but, more fortunate than his brother, returned in safety to end his days in England in 1276. His son, Fulk, inherited Whitchurch from his mother Eleanor; he served with credit as a young man in Gascony in 1294, and also during all the Scottish campaigns of Edward I. Though not summoned to the Parliament held at Lincoln in 1301, his name as Lord of Corfham appears among those of the barons who sealed the letter to the Pope, and he was one of the three le Strange knights who were present at the tournament in 1309. In that year he was summoned to Parliament under the style of Lord Strange of Blackmere, and the rolls for the next fifteen years are full of writs directed to him for civil and military employments. In the reign of Edward II Fulk was among the adherents of the Earl of Lancaster, and received a pardon for the part which he had taken against Gaveston and the King's friends. Like most of the Marchers, he espoused the policy of the lords ordainers, and on several occasions he appears to have evaded compliance with the royal writs requiring him to perform active service against the Scots. In 1321 he changed sides, like most of the Marcher lords, on account of their fear of Despencer's encroachments, and he joined the association formed by them to drive the Despensers out of the kingdom. Apparently he fought on the King's side at the battle of Boroughbridge, which resulted in the capture and execution of Lancaster. These services, and his early experiences in Gascony, procured for him in 1322 the appointment to the important office of Seneschal of Aquitaine, and he administered that province for upwards of a year, until stricken down there by illness from which he never recovered; he probably died in France early in 1324.

His eldest son, John, was under age when he succeeded as second Lord Strange of Blackmere; he came of age on the day of Edward III's accession to the throne; he had been trained

at court as one of the 'valets,' or yeomen, of Edward II, and was continued in a similar position by the new King. The custody of Conway Castle was conferred on him when he was only twenty-four years of age, and he received a special grant of free warren in all his domains. There are many summonses to him to do service in the Scotch campaigns of Edward III. In 1345 John le Strange's name appears among the bannerets summoned to take part in Edward's abortive expedition to Flanders, and next year he was one of four le Stranges who took part in the campaign of Crécy and the siege of Calais, fighting as a banneret in the retinue of the Earl of Arundel, who commanded the second division of the army. A general pardon was granted to him 'for his good services in the war of France,' but he did not long survive, dying at the early age of forty-three. John's eldest son, Fulk, died under age only five weeks after his father, and was succeeded by his brother John as fourth Lord Strange of Blackmere. He died in 1361, having married Mary fitz Alan, daughter of Richard, Earl of Arundel, who survived her husband for thirty-five years, and was known as the 'Lady of Corfham.' Their son, John, the fifth baron, died under age, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth, who became Baroness Strange of Blackmere in her own right; she was contracted in marriage when eight years old to Thomas de Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, afterwards first Duke of Norfolk, but died without issue while still a child, so the barony of Strange reverted to her aunt Ankaret, only sister of John, the fifth lord; Ankaret married Richard, Lord Talbot, and their eldest son, on the death of his mother, became eighth Lord Strange; he had issue only one daughter, also named Ankaret, who became Baroness Strange in her own right, but, dying an infant without issue, that title reverted to her paternal uncle, John Talbot, afterwards the celebrated Earl of Shrewsbury, so created by Henry V for his glorious military services in the French wars. Thus the barony of Strange of Blackmere became merged in the earldom of Shrewsbury, and so remained until the death of Gilbert, the seventh earl, in 1616 without male issue, when it fell into abeyance between his co-heirs, in which condition it still remains.

It has been mentioned that the barony of Strange of Knockin

also became merged in a higher but newer title, namely the earldom of Derby, in 1514; a curious state of things arose more than a hundred years later, which illustrates the intricacies of peerage law. On the death of Ferdinando, sixth Earl of Derby, without male issue in 1594, the earldom passed to his next brother, but the barony of Strange fell into abeyance between his three daughters as co-heirs thereof, and among their representatives it still so continues. James Stanley, eldest son of Ferdinando's brother William (the sixth earl) was summoned to the House of Lords during his father's lifetime as Lord Strange, by writ of 1628, under the erroneous belief that the barony of Strange of Knockin was vested in his father. The mistake was discovered, and his precedence corrected, but it was held that the effect of this writ, inadvertently issued, was to create in the Stanley family a new barony of Strange with precedence of 1628. This peerage in its turn passed to an heir general instead of to an heir male, and became vested in the family of the Murrays, Dukes of Athole in the peerage of Scotland, and it was in virtue of the barony of Strange that they sat in the English House of Lords; in 1786 the fourth duke was raised to the peerage of Great Britain as Earl Strange, and it is under this title that his descendants still sit; the present duke, who enjoys ten separate titles in the peerage of Scotland, and five in those of England or of Great Britain, is, among the latter, the twelfth Lord Strange of the creation of 1628.

The original enfeoffments of the three le Strange brothers by Henry I in what is now Shropshire were at three somewhat widely separated centres, viz. John, the eldest, was established at Ness in the north-west, Hamon at Cheswardine in the north-east corner, while Guy became Lord of Alveley in the extreme south-eastern part, beyond Bridgnorth. Osbaston had been originally conferred on Hamon, but was inherited by Guy of Alveley, who founded in it the castle of Knockin, which in the next generation passed from Guy's daughters and heiresses to their cousin John (II) of Ness, and thenceforth became the seat of the eldest branch of the family. On the death of Hamon without issue, Cheswardine had already passed

to his eldest brother, John (I). By sub-infeudation, mainly from the Fitz Alans, the fief or chatellany of Knockin soon acquired a very considerable accretion of territory to the north and north-west of Shrewsbury: Knockin, Ruyton, Ness, Meverley, Baschurch, and Middle, with other smaller manors, were almost continuous, while, a little to the north of this group, Ellesmere, with Colemere and Welsh-Hampton, formed the nucleus of another cluster of le Strange manors. Almost as many, but more separated from one another, were held by different members of the family on the west and north-west of Shrewsbury, viz. Longnor, Wrockwardine, Little Erccall, Cheswardine, and Whitchurch; while still farther afield to the south lay Church Stretton, with Acton-Scott and Glazeley, and Alveley in the south-eastern corner of the county. Many of these le Strange manors seem to have possessed some sort of exceptional franchise, though some were held 'in chief' and others under the Fitz Alans. Ness, for instance, did suit to the county, but not to the hundred; it also had free warren with a free court, franchise of gallows and pit, waifs and infangentheof. Middle, too, had free warren, and, though it owed suit to the county and hundred, it paid no contribution to the Hundred Court. Cheswardine did suit to the county, but not to the hundred, and had free warren and a park; even Wrockwardine claimed free warren. Eyton points out that the following estates and manors had jurisdiction more or less analogous to the jurisdiction of a hundred: Corfham,¹ Wrockwardine,² Middle,³ Great Ness,⁴ Little Ness,⁵ and Church Stretton.⁶ It would be interesting, but is probably impossible, to ascertain how much of these possessions came by grant from the English Crown, and how much grew up by annexation from the 'Welshry': each case depends on geographical position. In the instance of Knockin, situated on the actual border of the debatable land, there can be no doubt that half, or more than half, was acquired by encroachments on the principality: the inquest on John le Strange (IV) in 1276 specifies that the manor of Knockin was worth £20 per annum, while the 'Walcheria de Knockin' was worth £30.

¹ v. 160, 162, 169.⁴ x. 272, 288.² ix. 26.⁵ x. 101.³ x. 68.⁶ xii. 17.

It need not be assumed that all these annexations were acts of conquest made against the will of the small tenants ; many of these may have found it much to their interest to transfer their allegiance from a weak Welsh landlord to a powerful English baron, who in return for fixed services assured them in the occupation of their lands. The Marcher lordships had grown up gradually from force of circumstances, and rested on no direct grants from the Crown ; though nominally held *in capite*, they were self-governed, and merely owed feudal subjection to the King ; until the prerogatives of the Lords Marcher were vested in the Crown by Henry VIII they were, in theory and in practice, independent rulers within their territories ; the King's writ did not run there ; the lords appointed sheriffs, constables, escheators, and other officers ; they held in their own name pleas of the Crown, and even claimed the right of making war and peace with their neighbours at pleasure.¹ Of the manors held at one time or other by the le Stranges, the group round Knockin and the extensive territory of Ellesmere, certainly attained to the position of Marcher states, and, as such, were not comprised within the limits of any English or Welsh county. It was not until the Act of Union between England and Wales (27 Henry VIII, cap. 36) that Knockin and all the territory up to and including Oswestry was included in the county of Shropshire. Professor Tout says that a comparison of the Hundred Rolls with the Act of Union of Henry VIII, which settled the shires of the west, suggests that the Marcher lordships only gradually acquired the remarkable degree of independence to which they had attained in 1535. In the Hundred Rolls, Ness, Ellesmere, and Middle seem to be simply parts of the Hundred of Pimhill, which was in the King's hands, and even Knockin (and for that matter Oswestry itself) seem loosely attached to the Hundred of Bradford, though Oswestry is expressly declared to be free of suit to the Hundred Court. In the time of Henry VIII not only is Oswestry outside Shropshire, and formally annexed to it by the Act of Union, but Knockin, once a fief of Oswestry, is a separate Marcher lordship, and sepa-

¹ See *English Law in Wales and the Marches*, by Henry Owen, D.C.L., 1900.

rately included in Shropshire as part of the new Hundred of Oswestry. Similarly Ellesmere, as a result perhaps of the grant to the le Stranges, had gone out of Pimhill Hundred to become a separate Marcher lordship, and was now reannexed to it. All this illustrates remarkably the development and formulation of Marcher power in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Having thus far given such account as the materials which have come down to us enable one to do, with regard to the individual members of the family, and having traced the descent of the main branches thereof, it may be worth while to set down a few remarks on the general part played by the le Stranges in their day, and notably in the history of the Welsh March. Without claiming for them any very prominent place in the annals of their time, and without venturing to assert that any of them were either great as statesmen or as strategists, it is surely safe to say that the record of their doings gives a useful insight into the undercurrent of events which shaped the history of their period during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. They seem to have been a typical Marcher family, following nearly always the general movements which led the Marcher lords to take a decided, if sometimes not quite a consistent line of their own in the great problems of general politics. Like other Marcher families, they often played a part somewhat beyond their resources, and involved themselves in debt; Professor Tout thinks that this may be the reason why the west country branches of the family have either become extinct, or have been absorbed in other great baronial families. This stands in great contrast with the more even tenour of the ways of the Norfolk branch of the family which, though seldom looming so large in history, has happily survived to our own days.

One would like to be able to form some idea of the personality of these restless, hard fighting le Stranges. What were their individual characteristics and aims? What manner of men were they in themselves and in their dealings with others? That they were fierce, brave, energetic, and turbulent, is merely to say that they were of their age and race, moulded by their en-

vironment ; but they were also in some degree instrumental in shaping the policy of their time. They were keen in pushing their own interests, and successful in building up the fortunes of their House, yet without incurring the enmity or jealousy of their neighbours. Certainly in some particulars they were not over-scrupulous in adhering to the strict requirements of the law ; the King's venison, for instance, was by no means sacred in their eyes. This turbulence extended even to the clerical members of the family, as witness Eubulo of Gresford, who had no scruple about killing his man, even when himself getting on in years ; they would not have belonged to their time and district had not this been the case. If large donations to ecclesiastical foundations are to be accepted as a sign of personal piety, the repeated gifts made by each generation to their favourite abbey of Haughmond will earn for them a high place among the most pious sons of Mother Church. What seems to be the most distinguishing characteristic of the family, as well as that which entitles a descendant to look back to its story with pride and veneration, is that during those two centuries of constant insurrection and intrigue, no charge of having betrayed his trust for any base or interested motive was ever laid by any of their feudal lords to the door of any member of the House. Objection has been made that too much stress has been laid in preceding chapters on the loyalty of the family as a characteristic, in that it was at times very conditional. Surely this record of their services for 200 years is sufficient to invalidate this stricture. Guy, the founder of Knockin, held the border castles for Henry II during the critical time of the rebellion of that King's sons in 1173-4. John (II) of Knockin was faithful even to a king like John, and was singled out as one of the only four Marcher lords who had never borne arms against him. John le Strange (III) fought on the King's side throughout the whole of the wars of the barons. His eldest son at first espoused the cause of Simon de Montfort, but afterwards attached himself to the party of Prince Edward ; Hamon (the crusader) also began by fighting under de Montfort, but changed front with the other Marchers in 1263. In those days, when the King was a captive in the hands of a faction,

resistance to his nominal commands did not necessarily imply treason to the royal cause. Roger, the third brother, also fought on the side of Henry III against the barons ; under Edward I he saw service in everyone of that King's Welsh wars, and had under his command his own nephew, John (V) of Knockin, who was specially commended by Edward for having given voluntarily more service than was due by the obligation of his feudal tenure. If in a later generation members of the family, both from Knockin and Blackmere, took part in the rising against the favourites of Edward II, such conduct is scarcely sufficient to indicate a lack of loyalty to the Crown. On a careful review of the whole record it may fairly be claimed that steady loyalty was a distinguishing characteristic of the family, and that if any conditions were attached to it, those conditions were consistent with fidelity to the real as opposed to the nominal interests of the Crown, and were in no single instance dependent on any consideration of personal advantage.

CHAPTER XI

THE HERALDRY OF LE STRANGE

AT what period the *two lions passant* which have always formed the le Strange coat of arms were first adopted it is impossible to say ; though, probably, at least as early as the time of John le Strange (II), who lived during the third crusade, in which King Richard took part. It was towards the close of the twelfth century that distinctive heraldic bearings were adopted as a necessity to enable the followers of a knight to recognise their leader, whose features were entirely concealed by the close helmet which at that period superseded the open one, furnished only with a nasal, hitherto worn by the Normans, as depicted in the Bayeux tapestry. The lions were certainly used by John le Strange (III) when he was Sheriff of Shropshire, 1236 to 1248. The earliest known Roll of Arms is that called the Roll of King Henry III, a copy of which exists in the College of Arms, made by the herald Robert Glover in 1586. The original Roll, made between 1240 and 1245, has disappeared since Glover's time, but his MS. was edited by Sir Harris Nicolas in 1829, and an emblazoned copy of the arms was printed by Messrs. Harrison & Son of 23 Great Portland Street. In this emblazoned copy appear the following arms : J. le Strange, argent, *two lions passant in pale, gules* ; and John le Strange, the same, differenced by *a label of five points, azure*. It will be noticed that the tinctures in each case have been *counter-changed* ; the arms as given being those subsequently borne by the Blackmere branch of the family, whereas they are obviously intended for those of John le Strange (III) of Knockin, and his son, John (IV).

Mention has been made in Chapter IV¹ of the bond, dated October 24, 1268, by which Hamon, the crusader, borrowed fifty marks of Hagim, the Jew ; to this bond is still attached a broken seal, from the legend on which all but a few letters is gone, but the *two lions passant* remain, and above the shield a small crescent. Hamon was the second son of his father, but Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, Garter, thinks that the date of the seal is too early to warrant the conclusion that the insertion of the crescent, which in later times was used as a mark of cadency for a second son, is in this instance anything more than a coincidence, as it was a common practice in early seals to place celestial bodies above a shield : for instance, on the *secretum* of Margaret de Redvers, *ante* 1252, above the shield of her arms, which, curiously enough, are *two lions passant*, is placed a star within a crescent.

Another seal of this Hamon has survived, attached to his grant of the manor of Chawton to his brother Robert.² Here again the legend is almost gone, but the *lions passant* are quite distinct, and in the space on the dexter side of the shield is a star of five points, and on the sinister side a crescent. By this deed Hamon did not raise any money for his expenses to the crusade ; he granted the manor to his brother for the consideration of a chaplet of flowers to be paid annually on the day of St. John Baptist. As Robert also went on the crusade it is difficult to understand why the grant was made to him ; perhaps it passed before Robert had made up his mind to go to the Holy Land.

Eyton gives an engraving³ of an early seal of a Henry le Strange of Brocton, whom I have not been able to identify ;⁴ it bears in the centre, but not on a shield, *a single lion passant to the sinister*. It may be of very early date, before the charge of two lions had become finally adopted as the cognisance of the family.

John le Strange (V), first Baron Strange of Knockin, was among the knights present with Edward I at the siege of Caerlaverock in 1300, and the contemporary Roll of Arms displayed there gives his coat as follows :

¹ *Supra*, p. 143.

² *Supra*, p. 145.

³ ii. 124.

⁴ See p. 91.

*Johans le Estrange le ot livrée Rouge o deuz blans lyons passans.*¹
[John le Strange had it coloured red, with two white lions passant.]

A representation of his seal from a charter in the British Museum² is given in the 'B.M. Catalogue of Seals,'³ though the lions are incorrectly described there as *guardant*; an inspection of the original shows that they are simply *passant*.

This John was one of the three le Strange barons who sealed the famous letter to the Pope in 1301, all the seals on which have been figured in photogravure by Lord Howard de Walden in his admirable monograph on that letter. By his courtesy in lending me the blocks I am enabled to give presentments of all three of them. The seals of the several barons, now separated from the parchment on which the letter was engrossed, but still attached to the original silken cords on which they were affixed, are exhibited in two glass cases in the Museum of the Public Record Office. They are beautifully represented, in Lord Howard's monograph, in full size, on their respective cords, and in their several colours, with an Introduction by himself, and a short life history of each of the earls and barons.⁴ That of John le Strange, on cord xii, A 23, depicts him in armour, on a barded horse, brandishing his sword; helm with a fan plume, vizor down. On his shield and on the caparisons of his charger he bears the *two lions passant* of his House, and round the seal runs the legend:

S' IOHANNIS LE STRAVNGE

The other le Strange seals attached to the letter to the Pope are those of Roger of Ellesmere and Fulk of Blackmere. That of Roger, on cord A 65, bears the *two lions passant with a bordure engrailed* for a mark of cadency. The shield is suspended by its *guige* from a hook, the space on either side being filled in with scroll work. The 'British Museum Catalogue of Seals' gives another example of the same.⁵ Apparently a *bordure engrailed* was sometimes used as the distinctive mark of a third son. Eyton gives an instance from the Corbet family.⁶

¹ See p. 211.

² Add. MSS. 8068.

³ ii. 770, No. 9522.

⁴ *Some Feudal Lords and their Seals*, MCCC (the De Walden Library), pp. 85, 140, and 166.

⁵ ii. No. 11,315.

⁶ vii. 360-1.



I.

HAWISE (LE STRANGE) DE KEVEILIOC.



2.

ROGER LE STRANGE,
of ELLESMERE.



3.

JOHN LE STRANGE (V.),
of KNOCKIN.



4.

FULK LE STRANGE,
of BLACKMERE.



5.

JOHN LE STRANGE (VI.),
of KNOCKIN.

The shield of Fulk, first Lord Strange of Blackmere, on cord A 63, shows the *two lions passant*, without, of course, indicating the counterchange of tinctures by which it was differenced from the arms of his cousin of Knockin. An example of this seal is also to be seen in the 'British Museum Catalogue.'¹

A list in the British Museum of the names and arms of the bannerets of England, c. Edward II,² gives the following coats as differenced by five members of the family :

'Sire Johan le Estrange ; *de goules a ii lions passanz de argent.*

'Sire Roger le Estrange ; *meymes les armes od la bordure endente de or.*

'Sire Fouk le Estrange ; *de argent, a ii lions passanz de goules.* Gloucestershire.

'Sire Hamoun le Estraunge ; *de goules, a deux lions passanz de argent, e un baston de or.*

'Sire Johan le Estraunge ; *de goules a les merelos de or, e ii lions passanz de argent.'*

Who the second Sir John was is not apparent. The *merelos de or*, I take it, indicate *an orle of martlets*, as, in the Roll of Arms of the tournament held at Stepney in June 1309,³ Sir John le Strange is chronicled as bearing, *gules, two lions passant, argent, within an orle of eight martlets, or.*

The name of Fulk le Strange of Longnor appears among those of the knights present at the tournament of Dunstable in 1333, as bearing, *de goules ore deux lyons rampants d'argent, coronnes d'or.*⁴ He was the second son of Fulk, first Lord Strange of Blackmere, and was enfeoffed by his father in the manors of Longnor and Betton-Strange.

The seal of John le Strange (VI) of Knockin still remains attached to the charter, preserved at Hunstanton,⁵ by which he granted that manor to his younger brother Hamon. As will be seen from the photogravure on Plate X, (5) it is a small seal, not

¹ ii. 770, No. 9521.

² MS. Cotton, Calig. A. xviii, pencil fo. 3-21^o.

³ *Collect. Top. et Genealog.*, iv. 70.

⁴ B.M. Cotton, MSS. Otho D, iv. 92 ; Sloane MSS. 1301, 257. ⁵ *Supra*, p. 259.

quite an inch in diameter, with shield in the centre, bearing *two lions passant*, surrounded by the legend :

S. JOHIS EXTRANEI · DE · KNOKIN

Hamon, the grantee of Hunstanton, differenced his paternal arms by surmounting them with a *bendlet, or*; and with this difference they were used by the Hunstanton branch until the main stem at Knockin died out in 1514, in the person of Joan, Baroness Strange of Knockin, who married George Stanley, and brought about the merger of her title in the earldom of Derby; the le Stranges of Hunstanton then became the direct representatives of the name, and thenceforth bore the two lions passant without the bendlet.

Eubulo le Strange, the husband of Alice de Lacy, Countess of Lincoln, differenced his paternal arms by surmounting them with *a label of three points, or, each point charged with a lion rampant of the field*.¹

Robert le Strange, fourth son of John (III) of Knockin, and father of Fulk, first Lord Strange of Blackmere, bore the *two lions passant within an orle crusilly fitchee, argent*.²

The *bordure engrailed*, as borne round the arms of Roger of Ellesmere, is sometimes described as a *bordure indented*.³ The Parliamentary Roll, printed by Sir F. Palgrave, gives the following coat as borne by Johan le Estraunge: *Gules, within a bordure indented, or, two lions passant, argent, debriused by a bendlet azure*.⁴

A paper in the 'Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological Society'⁵ states that Hamon, the crusader, who had a grant of the manor of Ellesmere in 1267, bore, *gules, two lions passant, argent, within a bordure engrailed, or*. If this be correct, Hamon may have passed on this mark of difference to his brother Roger, together with the manor of Ellesmere, when he enfeoffed the latter in that manor on starting himself for the Holy Land in 1270.

For drawing my attention to several of these marks of difference, and giving me references to the authorities for them, I am greatly

¹ E.D.N. Alphabet, Coll. of Arms,

² Harl. MSS. 6137, fo. 77b, rs.

³ *Parl. Writs* (Sir F. Palgrave), i. 148b, 410b.

⁴ B.M. Cotton, MSS. Calig. A. xviii, pencil fo. 3-21.

⁵ vii. 200.

indebted to the kindness of Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, Garter, whose wealth of information, courteously placed at my disposal, enables me to give many of the foregoing particulars ; they are instructive as showing seven or eight diverse methods adopted by early heralds for differencing the paternal coat of a single family, while preserving the essential features of the original charge.

Further indications of cadency, together with later developments of heraldry in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries—such as crest, badge, motto, and supporters—must be reserved for notice when dealing with the later history of the family ; but one example, showing the widespread use of armorial representation in connection with architecture, I may introduce here, though it relates to a later period than that to which the present volume is confined.

The le Strange shield turns up unexpectedly on the coast of Asia Minor in the early years of the fifteenth century. The mediæval castle of Budrum, then called St. Peter Liberator, had been built on the site and out of the ruins of Halicarnassus by the knights of St. John in 1404, during their occupation of the island of Rhodes, as an outpost on the mainland, and a place of refuge for escaped Christian slaves. The walls are of great thickness, and adorned with the armorial bearings of the knights. The south-eastern tower, which rises from the rocks by the sea in three stories, appears to have been built by the English knights of the Order, as it is ornamented by a display of English heraldry of great antiquarian interest. High up on the western wall the arms and crest of England are carved in marble, and they appear again over the doorway on the north side, flanked by two shields with crosses of the Order ; while, a little lower, is a long line of twenty-two shields, eleven on either side, besides three smaller ones under the central lower shield. These armorial bearings were partially described by the late Sir Richard Holmes, for Sir Charles Newton's work on Halicarnassus,¹ and more fully by Sir Clements Markham in 1893, before the Society of Antiquaries.² Sir Clements' cousin, Admiral Sir Hastings Markham, K.C.B., who

¹ Vol. ii., part ii. Appendix, i. 666.

² *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (2nd series), xiv. 281-7.

explored the castle with him, has contributed to the 'Transactions' of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Freemasons a detailed paper, illustrated by excellent photographs.¹ Of these shields six, viz. three on either side of the central one, bear the Plantagenet arms ; the first shield, next to these on the right as you face them, bears the two lions passant of le Strange of Knockin, and most of the other heraldic bearings have been identified. It is not contended that scions of these twenty-two noble houses were actually engaged in the building of this fortress in Asia Minor. Richard, seventh Lord Strange, for example, had just made proof of age in 1404, and been summoned to Parliament, and it is not likely that he was at Budrum ; but there is evidence that Lord fitz Hugh, whose arms appear on the tenth shield on the right, was personally connected with the building of this distant Christian outpost. Admiral Markham adopts his cousin's explanation, that the appearance of all these English arms here indicates that the English knights of the Order, whose own arms are perhaps those on the three small shields below the centre, had been adherents of, or were in some way connected with, the noble houses whose bearings they associated with those of their King, Henry IV, over the gateway of the tower of the English *langue* in this remote fortress.

It is worthy of mention that a family of *Lestrangle* still exists in France ; but as 800 years have elapsed since the progenitor of the English stock came over from Anjou, at a period before heraldic bearings, if in use at all, had any hereditary fixity, it is not likely that any connection can be established. The French family belongs to Languedoc, far to the south of Anjou, and, curiously enough, their arms consist of lions ; the bearing, as given in Rietstep's *Armorial Général* (Gouda, 1861) are, '*de gueules à un lion d'argent en chef, et deux lions adossés d'or, en pointe.*'

¹ *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, xvii. 74-83.

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